

# THE INFPEND

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REGISTER TODAY PAGE 20 Independent

Fantasy Football WIN A TRIP TO THE 1998 WORLD CUP FINAL

# 6,000 heart attacks a year from car fumes

Vicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

Air pollution caused mainly by road traffic is triggering 6,000 heart attacks in Britain each year, according to medical researchers. Since roughly half of all heart attacks are fatal, the new finding supports the views of a growing number of doctors and scientists that pollution kills several thousand Britons

A team led by Dr Jan Poloniecki at St George's Hospilal Medical School in London concluded that one in 50 heart attack victims arriving at London hospitals is there as a result of poor air quality outdoors. traffic fumes. For high concen-Their research is published in the latest issue of Occupation-

He analysed seven years of arc found only in summer. data from the late 1980s and tants, all produced mainly by traffic in the capital's busy roads

and motorways.

The researchers were looking for a link between air quality on any one day and the number of people being rushed to hospital with heart and circulatory problems the next day. They used complex techniques of statistical analysis to probe for

They found that heart attacks, in which some of heart's muscles are killed by a lack of blood supply, rose in line with the previous day's levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulates, microscopic sooty specks. But these linkages between

found only in the colder months, from October to March, and not during the warmer April to September period. The worst pollution episodes are generally during particularly cold, still periods in winter when freezing air becomes trapped over cities and the concentration of fumes huilds up over several days.

But the researchers could find no linkage between heart attacks and rising levels of low level ozone, another important pollutant known to cause discomfort to people with chest illnesses and asthma. Ozone is produced by a chain of chemical reactions which begins with trations to build up there has to be little wind and long hours of al and Environmental Medicine. Strong sunshine, so ozone smogs

The researchers' article says early 1990s covering nearly
400,000 hospital admissions
and levels of five key air pollusions might trigger blood sions might trigger blood circulation illnesses. "Our results strengthen the case for ... a causal link with myocardial infarction [heart attacks]."

Over the past few years, a stream of big statistical studies from Europe, North America and more recently the UK have suggested a link between air pollution, deaths and hospital admissions. It seems that the elderly and those already suffering heart and lung disorders, are most at risk.

The 1990s have seen Britain and the other European Union nations implementing measures to cut pollution from new cars, lorries and buses, under EU smog-busting laws. The most significant of these

air pollution and health were have been compulsory catalytic converters fitted to the exhaust pipes of all new cars. The annual MoT test also checks for levels of carbon monoxide in exhaust fumes. Stricter standards for new cars came into force this year, and in 2000 new vehicles will have 10 meet a still tougher third stage of standards.

But while these laws should hring about big improvements in air quality, and thereby save thousands of lives, there are powerful countervailing forces.

The number of cars and car usage is rising steadily, and those trends have accelerated with the strong economic recovery. For years to come, millions of older vehicles will not have catalytic converters fitted, produce copious quantities of pollutants and face no annual emissions checks. There are also worries that as cars with "cats" age, the performance of their pollution-cutting equip-ment falls off sharply.

The Government has forecast that air quality should now have begun improving after deteriorating through the 1980s, partly because of moves to curb traffic fumes and the drastic decline in coal burning by power stations. But it will not be possible for several years to say if things are getting better.

One reason is that a nationwide network of monitoring stations has only been in place for a few years; this makes it difficult to establish a baseline and see trends emerging. Another is that pollution levels depend on the weather and therefore fluctuate markedly from year to year, irrespective of the exact quantities being emitted.



Tory wet: Party leader William Hague about to take the plunge on a water slide during a visit yesterday to Flambards theme park, near Helston, Cornwall Photograph: Paul Slater/Apex

# Camelot director to leave after final bonus

David Lister

David Rigg, the public face of Camelot, operators of the National Lottery, is leaving the company, Mr Rigg, Camelot's director of communications, was criticised as one of the lottery "fat cats" earlier this year after it was revealed his salary package had almost doubled to

His total salary package rose by 90 per cent last year - the biggest leap of all the Camelot directors. He is due to pick up around £80,000 in performancerelated honuses on 1 October two days before he leaves Camelot.

Mr Rigg was a founder board member of Camelot in 1993, and spent many of those early days wooing both journalists and others involved in the lottery good causes, telling them of Camelot's efficiency and ahility to deliver. His public relations skills

could not, however, overcome the public distaste when it was revealed that in total, the amount paid out to directors this year rose from £1.67m to £2.23m, while profits slipped from £51.1m to £46.8m. News of the pay-outs sparked

a public ontery, with claims that more cash should be going to the good causes.

Mr Rigg was away on a half-term holiday with his wife and children when the results were

After a showdown with Culture Secretary Chris Smith, the directors agreed to pay undisclosed sums from future bonus payments into a confidential charity fund.

Announcing Mr Rigg's de-parture yesterday, Camelot and seek new challenges for the chief executive Tim Holley said: future."

"David has been one of the architects of the success of the National Lottery and has been an outstanding communications director.

"We are sorry to lose him but wish him well in his future endeavours."

In a statement issued by the company. Mr Rigg said that he felt the time had come to

David Rigg said: "The lottery has played a major part in my life for the last seven years



bonus days before he leaves

and has absorbed most of my time for the last four-anda-half years.

"Working as part of the Camelot team has been both a pleasure and a privilege. I have also, in the vast majority of instances, greatly enjoyed my lit-erally thousands of dealings with the media over this time.

"However, I believe it is right

# Black actors confuse police trainees

### Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

ites

Hundreds of police officers are to be given a second chance to take promotion examinations after failing because they were unable to deal with black actors pretending to be traffic wardens.

The 13 ethnic minority actors who took part in the national examinations were told last week their role was being axed. But the Home Office announced last night that it was reversing the decision and that the exams using black people would continue.

An organisation representing black officers yesterday said the affair was very worrying and raised wider issues about police attitudes to race.

The controversy follows last year's sergeants' exams which used black actors for the first time - about half the 3,200 tests involved black actors in one exercise. The Police Promotions Examinations Board decided to drop the practice after a psy-chologist told them officers had performed better when dealing with white actors and that this may be because race was con-

The Home Office and police associations yesterday criticised the move by the official training body, even though their representatives were on the board that made the original decision

to stop using black actors.

The board had written in the past few weeks to the 13 actors involved to say they would not be used in the practical part of the examinations so that the excraises could be "standardised".

It followed a survey of the previous year's results by an occupational psychologist who found there were "significant differences in performance" by

deal with black actors and those who had white actors. The board decided that many officers believed the examination was to test equal opportunities skills, rather than their knowl-

edge of road laws. As a result, the board decided to scrap the results of that section of the exam and give all officers who failed another chance. This will affect about

800 of the officers who failed. Leroy Logan, of the Black Police Association, said yes-terday: "While we agree that there is some merit in the find-

those candidates who had to ings of the psychologist we would argue that the real issue here is the apparent inability of some candidates to relate to hlack people without seeing

colour as the issue.

"If this is happening in the controlled situation of an exam, then how might their perceptions be translated in real operational situations?"

A spokeswoman for the Home Office said: "It was a misguided attempt to standardise the examinations. It is clearly unacceptable. Steps are being taken to reverse the decision and reinstate the ethnic minority

role players." Spokesmen for the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Police Federation welcomed the decision to overturn the move. However, there remains confusion about who authorised the original policy when the Home Office. Federation and Acpo all have

members on the board. The head of the Police Promodons Examinations Unit in Harrogate, Superintendent Glenn Hutton, acknowledged that there had been a "hiccup" in its procedures, but he said it was a misunderstanding about how the exam system worked.

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7249 and take the wait off your mind.





## Yes! Yes! Er - what was your name again? time of day is this?" reported "unremarkable". Investigations consciousness or any obvious cording to the Journal of Neu-

Glenda Cooper

Social Affairs Correspondent

It's the morning after and you have not got a cine where you are or who they are or what you have done. But now forgetful lovers have the perfect excuse - all they have to do is tell their "Flers: "Sorry. I must have

rology, Neurosurgery and Psy-chiatry, this medical condition, characterised by sudden and dramatic memory loss after sexual intercourse, is not an uncommon clinical occurrence.

nal recount the case of a man in his sixties who frequently suffered bouts of amnesia after sex. "During these events he would repeatedly ask questions such as 'What are we doing?' What time of year is it? What

Dr Russell Lane of the West London Neurosciences Centre. The memory loss lasted for

30 to 60 minutes on each occasion, after which he recovered perfectly except for the fact that Doctors in a letter to the jour- he had no memory of interrecollection of foreplay.

Although he seemed aware ing the amnesia attack, the doctors found his activities during intercourse and after were

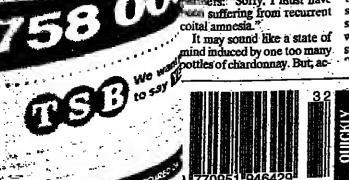
showed nothing except an ir- neurological disturbance such as regular brain signal which doctors attributed to migraine.

Recurrent coital amnesia is thought to be one type of a more common condition known as transient global amnesia course and only the haziest (TGA), which happens during periods of physical and emotional stress. It is characterised of experiencing difficulties dur- by the sudden development of amnesia usually accompanied by repetitive questioning but without any other alteration in

an epileptic fit. The fact that a person can

repeatedly experience selective amnesia for sexual intercourse, but otherwise function normaily during the amnesic period, raises interesting social and medicolegal considerations," Dr Lane said. Or, as agony aunt Clare Rayner puts it rather more forcefully: "What a glorious new excuse - 'Sorry, I forgot all about it, darling'."

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Silver for Britain Silver for Britain
Denise Lewis won Britain's
first medal in the athletics
World Championships in
Athens last night, when she
finished second in the heptathlon.
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# significant shorts

# Hero pilot fights shy of bosses' praise

The airline pilot who safely crash-landed his crippled aircraft with 66 passengers on board was too shy to meet the praise heaped upoo him yesterday. Captain John Jones, 40, had just left Manchester airport on his British Regional Airlines flight bound for Ireland when an undercarriage failed, but he told his bosses it was just part of his job.

The aircraft, with a total of 70 people on board, turned back when it was discovered the undercarriage on the left wing would not work. It circled for three hours over the Irish Sea to use up excess fuel before the captain, one of the airline's most experienced pilots, brought it safely down on the tarmac at Manchester in what his bosses described as "a text book example of how to handle the aircraft in the circumstances".

Mike Bathgate, the airline's commercial director, said: "The captain is a very private individual. He believes it was very much an overall combined effort between him and the other crew." Captain Jones, who has been with the airline for 10 years, was speaking to investigators from the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch to try to discover the cause of the failure.

## Double murderer to be released

A convicted double murderer is to he released from prison after 22 years protesting his innocence, it was disclosed last night. Reginald Dudley, 72, who was convicted with Robert Maynard in 1977 for the killings of London underworld figures William Moseley and Michael Cornwall, is to be let out of Ford Prison, Sussex, on licence on tomorrow, his solicitor, Andrea Storey, said.

Dudley and Maynard, who remains in jail, have been the subjects

of Britain's longest-running miscarriage of justice campaign. Their cases are currently being looked at by the Criminal Cases Review Commission which is considering whether they should be sent back to the Court of Appeal. Moseley's handless and headless body was discovered in 1975. The following year, Cornwall was shot dead. The only evidence against them came from an armed robber who claimed they had admitted the murders while in jail. However, he later admitted lying in order to get a shorter sentence.

# 'Men in Black' sets box office record



The sci-fi action comedy Men In Black has broken British box office records in its opening weekend, makers Columbia Tristar claimed yesterday. The film starring Will Smith (left) and Tommy Lee Jones as men protecting the Earth from the scum of the universe", took £7,066,748 at the turnstiles up to Sunday night.

That figure beat the previous record holder, *Independence* Day, in which Smith also starred, last summer which

made £7,005,905 over the same period. However, Columbia Tristar's figures included Thursday previews – and Men In Black opened early at more than 300 screens around the country.

## Barclays faces action over pay

Barclays is facing a campaign of industrial action in a "rapidly escalating" dispute over pay. The bank's two unions have agreed to co-ordinate action, which is likely to include an overtime ban and a work-to-rule, after the "collapse" of talks. Barclays turned down a union request to take a dispute over a new performance-related scheme to the conciliation service Acas, arguing that it had already made substantial modifications to its original proposals.

Jim Lowe, assistant secretary of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu), complained: "This from a bank that is expected to announce half-yearly profits of more than £1bn later this week." Bifu and the Barclays union UNIFI said that the new pay scheme would reduce the amount of mooey the bank puts into staff salaries. The two unions have decided to co-ordinate action, although no date has been fixed for it to start.

## Man hunted over landlord's death

A former psychiatric patient is being himted by police after his elderly landlord was found stabbed to death in a burning house. Police took the unusual step of naming unemployed David Edward Roberts, 24, as the man they wish to question about the killing of Joe Osmond, 70. They warned the public to stay clear of Mr Roberts, who was offered a room to rent by Mr Osmond after they met at their local rugby club. The murder inquiry was launched after the emergency services were alerted to a fire at Mr Osmond's two-bedroomed cottage in Salisbury. Wiltshire, where they found his body inside. He had suffered multiple stah wounds.

## East 17 star on assault charge



Pop star Brian Harvey appeared in court yesterday at a hearing to decide whether he will stand trial for an alleged assault on a photographer. Harvey, 22, singer with East 17, was mobbed by teenage fans as he arrived for an old-style committal hearing at Bow Street magistrates' court in central London. Harvey (left). from Loughton, Essex, and Stephen Exley, from Waithamstow, east London, are

an Argentinian photographer, Reinaldo Vargas, 43. The offences are alleged to have taken place outside Stringfellows night club in London's West End, The hearing was adjourned until 7 October.

## Study urges lower drinking age

A report commissioned by police into young people's experiences of drink and drugs yesterday advocated lowering the legal age for buying alcohol in pubs from 18 to 16. The controversial study carried out by the University of Wales, Bangor, for North Wales police shows that about 70 per cent of 16-year-olds are drinking already. It suggests one way of taking them off the streets and allowing them to drink in a more controlled environment would be to let them into rule with identity cards. to let them into pubs with ideotity cards.

Landlords would also have to adopt a tougher attitude on the amounts of alcohol being sold to any individual. But the university researchers also suggest that the age at which teenagers can buy alcohol across the counter at off-licences should be increased.

## Bath lines up for lottery funding

An art exhibition featuring a scum line around a bath tub is to get National Lottery funding. Arts Council officials have approved a grant of £4,176 to help the Bristol-based City Projects arts group stage the controversial exhibition. The bath tuh will be one of about 10 works put on show in November.

## THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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# people



Bosom buddles: Television's favourity twentysomethings have secured a bumper pay-day

# What's the price of a Friend? About £2.5m, apparently

They may be "there for us when the rain starts to fall" but their jobs are no longer a joke and they are certainly not broke. The cast of Friends have

just signed a deal for £2.5m per episode.

The contract could make the series, featuring sk. impossibly hip New Yorkers hanging out in a trendy care, the most expensive in television history.

Hollywood trade papers yesterday reported that the hit comedy's US network has finally agreed to pay £2.5m per show – the previous figure was about £625,000. This should keep the cast, who threatened to walkout last year after a row over their salaries, happy to be there for each other for at least a few more episodes. However, since the programme was first aired, casting directors and advertisers have been falling over

themselves to sign up the actors, who were all pret-ty much unknown before Friends came along. Jermifer Aniston, whose role as the spoilt dewish princess, Rachel, is secondary to her legendary hair cut, is currently starring in a couple of television ad-vertisements, as well as lining up the film roles. Her co-stars, Courtney Cox; better known as Mon-

ica, the control-freak chef, and Lisa Kudrow, who plays

in films. Cox most recently played a bitch TV reporter in Wes Craven's latest shlock-horror movie, Scr :: Kudrow, who latest role is playing another loveable airhead in Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion,

is already afraid of being typecast.

As for the boys, David Schwimmer, the lovable palaeontologist Ross, Matthew Perry, arguably the cast. member who gets the best lines as Chandler, and Mattle Blanc, who plays the irrepressible but dim-witted loey, the offers have flooded in.

Schwimmer was the first Friend to test the movie waters in Pallbearer (a flop) but he is now turning his hand to directing, before returning to the other side of the camera in a film with Sir Ian McKellen, no less. Unfortunately for Le Blanc, life seems to be imitating art as he has been struggling as much as Joey to land a starring role. But he is hoping that will change when he teams up with Gary Oldman for a movie ver-

sion of Lost in Space. Finally Perry, who has admitted to drug problems. has just netted a cool £1m for the romantic comedy Fools Rush In. It's a far cry from the days when, as ice, the control freak chef, and Lisa Kudrow, who plays Bachel would say, they were all searching for "one of the ditzy masseuse Phoebe, have also landed parts those job things" Kate Watson-Smyth Kate Watson-Smyth

## John Simpson spoils for battle on home front

Distinguished BBC war correspondent John Simpson has put himself in tha line of fire on the home front, with outspoken attacks on the corporation's director-general, John Birt, former colleague Martin Bell and "good news" fan Martyn Lewis.

Simpson, 53 (right), launched his forthright salvos in the BBC's biggest-selling publication, Radio Times, published today.
He joked that, apart from Libya's Gaddafi, it was getting difficult to find a good distance these

ficult to find e good dictator these days. "You have to visit weird parts of the world to find them -like Television Centre and Broadcasting House.

"The heads of giant corpora-tions can be just as loopy - it's power and the feeling they're al-

ways right," Martin Bell, now the independent MP for Tatton, was wrong to crusade for "involved" reporting on his return from Bosnia, Simpson said. "Martin Bell is talking nonsense and he knows it. "He was one of the most objective

Ha added: "It's not my job to shriek that side A is right and side B is wrong. I'm sick of the 'I'm going to tell you everything about me and what I think' achool of journalism. You don't watch tha BBC for

But Simpson also condemned live two-way links from trouble spots and Martyn Lewis'a "good news" campaign. "That'e so silly.



There's no good news and bad news, just news," he acoffed. It was "amusing" that the Prince of Wales and John Major supported Lewis, he said. "You can't blame them. Whenever you switched on all you saw was an-

He feared the leaked BBC report Reflecting The World, which suggested popular presenters like Ulrika Jonsson were needed to make unpopular foreign issues more palatable, was close to the mark. "It's true. That's the trouble. Viewers want bimboys and bimbettes. Who wants to see Martyn Lewis? I don't."

other one of their disasters.

Simpson, who has resigned reg-ularly in the past, does not fear his latest onslaught will have repercussions. "I've been in lots of trouble and that means within the BBC as well as out.

# Queen Mother marks 97th year

The Queen Mother celebrated her 97th birthday yesterday by going on an impromptu walkabout among a crowd of more than 1,000 well-wishers, some of whom had camped overnight at Clarence House.

Leaning heavily on a stick, she smiled and waved at the assembled crowd, who sang Happy Birthday, and handed her flowers. cards, chocolates and cuddly toys.

Accompanied by Prince Andrew, she reviewed a march-past by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment Then, with four generations of

the Royal Family gathered at Clarence House for e celebratory lunch, the party eppeared at tha gates with the Queen and her mother at their head.

Prince William, 15, was given pride of place by his great-grandmother when he was at her side to review the King's Troop, Royal

Horse Artillery. And 12-year-old Prince Harry was also present, with his father, the Prince of Wales. -Jeanne Calment, who at 122 vears and five months, was probably tha world's oldest parson, has died in Arles in southern France.

She "alipped away" at 11.15am lo-

cal time yesterday but was not thought to be suffering any illness. Bom in Arles on Febrary 21 1875, Madame Calment was regarded as e kind of living national archive. She lived alone until she was 111 before consenting to

move into an old peoples' home.

Obituaries, page 10

# British climber's Himalayan ordeal ends

The British mountaineer Alan Hinkes was resting in Islamabad, Pakistan, last night after spending an excruciating seven days with e slipped disc stranded on

a Himalayan mountain.

Bizarrely, the specialist who finally diagnosed the Injury turned out to have just returned from nine years working in Darlington Memorial Hospital – only 20 miles from where Mr Hinkes grew up, In Northallerton in North Yorkshire. Dr Rifat Zaidl told Mr Hinkes: "I thought I recognised your accent."

He plans to return to Britain next week to rehabilitate the injury which, in another strange touch, was set off when he was eating a chapati about halfway up the mountain. Soma of its flour made him sneeze. The muscular strain caused e prolapsed disc which could take up to three months to heal completely. The climber was yesterday taken by helicopter

from the lower slopes of Nanga Parbat, which at 8,128 metres (26,660ft) is one of the 14 mountains in the world over 8,000m. Mr Hinkes had previously climbed eight of the 14, and had intended to set e record by conquering the other alx in a single sea-

son. If he can climb all 14, he will become only the sixth person to achieve the feat, and the first native English speaker

But so far in 1997 Mr Hinkes has only managed one, Lhotse, end now fears that if it takes too long for his injury to heal that could rule out an attempt this autumn on the two peaks of Annapuma (8,091m) and

Dhaulagiri (8,167m).

He used e satellite phone to call Berghaus, his sponsors on the £70,000 expedition, and to call for a helicopter. But for days, the pilot was unable to reach him, leaving Mr Hinkes stranded at his base camp with shrinking supplies of food and painkillers. "I was having three-hour back spasms," he recalled yesterday.

Eventually, on Sunday, he managed to ignore the

pain enough to climb down 700m to 3,350m, just above a glacier which would have made further progress more difficult, hoping it would be easier for a helicopter to reach him. "I got my cook to build a bornlire, with branches from nearby shrubs, and to make e big H with stones on the ground, then just before dawn broke today I called the helicopter Charles Arthur

# briefing

## SHOPPING

# Rude staff and long queues keep customers dissatisfied

Rude staff and long queues at the checkout are to blame for growing customer dissatisfaction with service in shops, according to a report published today. Overall, the number of people complaining about service in et least one shop they visit has soared from 26 per cent in 1992 to 43 per cent this year.

DIY and electrical goods stores are the worst offenders, followed by shoe and clothes shop, the survey published by the National Consumer Council disclosed.

Places with the most satisfied customers are hairdressers and

barbers' shops, where service was rated good or very good by 90 per cent of customers - closely followed by chemists Snpermarkets come third, leapfrogging local grocers and newsagents for the first time, with 86 per cent of customers

reporting good service. Major bugbears cited by shoppers are queuing at checkouts or not enough tills being opened, and staff who are rude and unhelpful or too pushy. Poorly-trained assistants are also a source of irritation - particularly in DIY and electrical goods stores.

The only area of growing customer satisfaction is prices, with fewer shoppers complaining of either high or rising costs now than

The survey into shopping trends also disclosed that Britain is not a nation of shopaholics. People visit the shops less now than five years ago - although this does not mean they are spending less.

## TECHNOLOGY

## The 'thinking' computer decides

A loans company is using a high-tech "intelligent" computer program to help it make instant decisions on applications. It uses

neural technology, which tries to mimic the workings of a human brain, to make split-second judgments on individuals.

Neural computers are often called "thinking computers" because of their ability to learn from experience and "best guess" estimation, inst as a human can reserved to new and changing situation, just as a human can respond to new and changing

The computer, called Decider, is being used by Lloyds Bowmaker Motor Finance, part of the Lloyds TSB group. It is "taught" with historical customer data, it does not have to be programmed with fixed rules or equations and it can automatically extract essential characteristics from previous applicant information.

Decider then makes a decision on whether to accept a loan or not, and gives reasons for its choice. In a trial, when it was pitted against traditional loan scrutiny techniques, Decider was shown, on average, to be 10 per cent more accurate.



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E Sullan

## ATTITUDES

## Young more tolerant towards gavs

More than two in five young people in Britain believe that the age of consent for homosexuals should be lowered, according to the findings of a survey on youth attitudes.

The NOP poll of 986 adults aged 16 years and over in England

and Wales, however, found that this general increase in tolerance for homosexuality among those aged 16-34 was not reflected among the over-35s. Seventy-two per cent of the general adult population declared themselves to be against any lowering of the

age of consent from 18 to 16 years.

Tolerance on the issue of gay sex does not extend to smoking or "alcopops". More than two-thirds of those questioned were in favour of raising the legal age of smoking from the current 16 to 18 years of age. Support for a total han on alcopops among the under-25s, whilst less overwhelming than among the over-35s, was still around one third of those questioned.

Louise Hancock

## LEISURE

# Man's (or woman's) best friend?

They are regularly hurt by them, don't always trust them, and often have to lie in order to spend time with them, but 63 per cent of all riders say they prefer the company of their horses to their

partners.

Although 87 per cent of riders say their horse can be "temperamental" and almost half have been quite badly injured, 72 per cent of riders admit that they tell their horse their problems, rather than their partner. And the national survey, compiled by Gallop magazine, shows that 90 per cent of women compiled by Gauop magazine, shows that 50 per cent of women riders say they would rather have a new horse than a baby.

Almost two-thirds (65 per cent) say they wish they could take both their partner and horse on holiday, while half admitted to having sneaked off work for a secret rendezvous with their horse.

having sneaked on work for a secret rendezvous with their norse.

Perhaps not surprisingly, 53 per cent of partners were said to be jealous of the relationship. With good reason: almost half of all riders say if things came to a head they wouldn't be able to decide between their partner or borse. A quarter would definitely choose Jojo Moyes

## PROPERTY

## Home-owners do it themselves

Home-owners have been spending an average of £320 a year each on DIY – more than one-fifth of the total amount they splash out for work on their homes, a report shows today.

The figure comes in research published by the Joseph Rowntree

Foundation, using data from a study carried out by the Building Research Establishment with 5,500 home-owners for the 1991 English House Condition Survey.

It found that most DIY work involved decorating and upgrading properties, with 40 per cent of kitchens and 30 per cent of bathrooms being fitted by owners themselves.

And as many as 40 per cent of owner-occupiers who carried out major improvements or work at home chose to do at least some of the job themselves.

Labour-intensive jobs were more likely to be carried out by DIY than those where the cost of materials was relatively high, the report anthors found. But the complexity of any task appeared to be a more important factor in owners' decisions whether to use contractors or to tackle the job themselves.





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# Charles Arthur Science Editor

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DIY and electrical goods store. CAMPBELL STATES IN THE PROPERTY OF And the same and a second strate with the

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ernment, bringing the total number of notified cases to 21 at the end of June. But the figures hide a peculiar clustering of cases: in Ashford, Kent, in Type and Wear in the North-east and near Glas-

Two more deaths from the

"new variant" strain of the fa-

tal brain disorder Creutzfeldt-

disclosed yesterday by the Gov-

gow. So far, three of the people who have died of "v-CID" have lived near Ashford - which itself is close to the site where the first case of bovine spongiform Jakoh Disease (CJD), linked with "mad cow disease" were encephalopathy (BSE) was diagnosed in 1985. Susan Carcy, who died five months ago, lived near Ashford in the 1980s before moving to Rochester, also

in Keot. Another two cases have occurred in comparatively small areas in Tyne and Wear, inchuding Jean Wake, who worked as a meal-chopper in a pie fac-pital in Glasgow.

Chains, delays,

dishonesty and

gazumping.

The evils of

house-buying

come under

government

scrutiny

£30,000 deposit and a guaranteed mortgage,

Claudine Sturdy should have been every

vendor's dream - a first-time buyer with no

chain and an overwhelming desire to move

es buyers pain and stress and how the

A steering group representing lawyers,

agents, consumers, lenders and other pro-

fessionals met to draw up guidelines for re-

searchers who will track 1,000 sales to find

out which ones go wrong and why. So far, Ms Sturdy, 28, a film production

co-ordinator from south London, has en-

countered all the problems that the group,

simpler, quicker and less frustrating.

ing a greased snake.

tory, and lived in Washington until she died in October 1995; and Mandy Minto, a former European judo champion, who died aged 27 last weekend in Sunderland Royal Hospital.

Two other cases are based near Glasgow, including Janice Stuart, of Milton of Campsie near Glasgow, who died of v-CJD aged 35 last September; and a suspected victim, Donnamarie McGivern, aged 15, who has a serious brain disorder, at Southern General Hos-

among such a small number of this across to newspapers," said cases could be a statistical accident. "When the numbers are so small you can convince yourself of anything," said Dr

dent analyst of the BSE cpidemic yesterday. "But the fact is, the first cases of BSE were noticed in Ashford." Last night, members of the CJD Support Association were unwilling to discuss the idea. "If that is all you want

to talk about, we may have to

Stephen Dealler, an indepen-

one member.

The Government triggered a major BSE scare when announced in March 1996 that the growing number of cases of v-CJD was probably caused by exposure to the disease agent that causes BSE. However, it has never specified that this had to be through eating BSE-infected food.

People in Ashford would be no more likely to eat BSE-infected food than other people

find some other way of getting at most stages of the epidemic. However, some scientists have around Ashford in Tyne and Wear or near Glasgow. The called attention to the presence CID Surveillance Unit, which of a rendering plant which dis-charges 120,000 litres of efflumonitors cases and records victims' personal histories, had ent daily, and to an event in 1963 in Smarden when two acres of land were contaminated by flu-

> ically related to organo- phosphates (OPs). Some people have suggested that OPs caused BSE - although evidence from the Continent contradicts this.

oracetamide, a highly toxic

organo-halogen which is chem-

At the same time, there is no

no comment last night. "While the numbers are so small, you can sum it up and say that there's no excess, that it's just statistical anomaly," said Dr

"But after a while il becomes a different type of analysis." He suspects that there may be a eontributory cause for BSE ant CID is likely to occur or not.

CJD deaths leave questions over clusters fied - and that the Government will resist any attempt to iden-

> The long incubation period of up to 20 years for forms of CJD means that victims were probably infected in the 1980s, before the most infectious parts of cattle - the brain, spinal cord spleen and various organs were banned from human consumption.

> Experts still do not know if a major epidemic of new vari-

# computer decides

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the field makes there are an inding to.

bigh-tech "intelligent" computer Man decorate on applications, king we to meme the nurlings of a busin programs on individuals. each from experience and hest guest, can respond to new and changing

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A special property and the control of the

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Jag and Zanzibi Sling. Agres Sans fused requests to stock them.

a mark of the cultural impact, the issue was even raised in a television soap Tinhead, a teenager in Brookside, was made to look a complete

INDEPENDENT. at the youth club with a few alcopops. JD Wetherspoon embarked on a trial ban at its busiest pub, the Hamilton Hall, at Liverpool Street

"The first place I saw was a dream and a real bargain, a three-bedroom flat for It wasn't supposed to be like this. With a £70,000 in Brixton," she said.

ing something else in Norwood and everything was going smoothly. But then there was a small legal hitch involving the lease and, unfortunately, the vendors had incredibly slow solicitors.

But worse was to come. Ms' Sturdy process of buying a property can be made found another place, a two-bedroom flat in Streatham, for £90,000.

> agents that the vendor had placed it with a second agent at £95,000.

> said. "Then they - not the other agents - went and sold it for £95,000. "I am absolutely fed up with the whole

set up by housing minister Hilary Armstrong, will be studying - chains, delays, dis-Everyone tries to rip you off all the time honesty and, perhaps most frustrating of

The people I was buying from were buy-

But, like thousands of others, she soon found that estate agents, building societies, "A joh that should have taken four days took them four weeks and in the meantime surveyors and sheer bad luck conspire to make buying a house as difficult as catchmy vendors lost their place because their vendor wouldn't wait any longer. And some-Yesterday, the Government made the one nipped in and gazumped them by first moves towards finding out what caus-

She offered £85,000 but was told by her

"My agents told me that if I raised my price to £90,000 then 1 could have it," she

and no one keeps their word and I feel insulted that anyone could possibly think that ery to home-buyers and sellers," she said.



you believe anything they say. We need protection for vendors and huyers so one isn't waiting too loog for their house to be sold,

and so the other's offer is honoured." Ms Armstrong said she was determined to provide protection for people like Ms Sturdy and promised to act on the results

of the study, which should be finished next The Government is determined to identify the root causes of delays and other problems which cause distress and mis-

and the Consumers' Association - vested interests are likely to make agreement One option, to adopt the Scottish system whereby an offer, once accepted, is bind-

porated Society of Auctioneers and Valuers

ing, already seems to he losing its appeal.

"It does prevent gazumping once an offer has been accepted," said Hngh However, given the diversity of the steering group - with representatives from the Office of Fair Trading, HM Land Registry, the Law Society, the Royal Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the Institute of Chartered Surveyors, the Coun-National Association of Estate Agents. cil of Mortgage Lenders, the National Association of Estate Agents, the Incor-

"Bui before you can make an offer, you have to have your mortgage offer and sur-"If your offer is rejected, then all the

money you have spent on your legal fees and survey goes down the drain. Theoretically, that could happen two or three times before you get a property."

The Consumers' Association wants to see some form of protection available for buyers but feels the best way to avoid disappointment is to speed up the way the system works.

"Gazumping takes place between an offer being made and the completion of the transaction," said Sophie Gumpel, a principal researcher with the association. "If the whole process were made faster,

less convoluted and more of a 'one-stopshop' process, there would be less time for gazumping to take place."

# Pub chain calls time on alcopops as more companies join ban

The bubble may be bursting on alco-pops. The sweet-tasting drinks which prompted public outrage by supposedly luring the young to alcohol were dealt another blow yesterday.

JD Wetherspoon, the fast-ex-panding chain of 194 pubs, announced it was banning all the drinks which revel in such names as Hooper's Hooch, Shott's Lemon Since their introduction in Britain

two years ago, there has been a host of critical stories. Unwitting parents packed the alcoholic drinks in hunch boxes. Stirling University banned them from the campus and even bars at the House of Commons have re-

The Co-op and Iceland food stores have cleared the controversial beverages from their shelves. And in fool when he tried to impress the girls

man Tim Martin said: "We simply do not want to be associated with the

controversy."
The chain sells 10-15,000 bottles week. But Mr Martin said: "We have considered the situation carefully. Alcopops have had a lot of bad publicity and many people are concerned that they may be attractive to people too young to drink legally."

The decision was welcomed and condemned in equal measure. Andrew Chevis, of the Portman Group, the drinks' industry-funded watchdog, said the pub chain was missing the point. "We do not believe that for a company like JD Wetherspoon to ban alcopops will have a significant impact on alcohol misuse by

young people." Out of 200 children admitted to the Alder Hey children's hospital in Liverpool last year with drinking problems, only six followed consumption of alcopeps. Mr Chevis said a Portman Group report later this month will highlight other drinks causing more problems, although he refused to name them.

Stuart Cain, spokesman for Bass who make Hooper's Hooch, which has 70 per cent of the market, questioned Wetherspoon's motivation in take an alternative tipple, it extended the ban yesterday.

The bad publicity the drinks have generated has prompted its decision more than any moral crusade. Chair-incomplete than any moral crusade. banning a drink which was popular something that is different from three million bottles and cans are sold So we see a pattern of new types of

Yet Fiona McIntosh, editor of Company magazine for young wo-men in their twenties, said it was not simply under-age drinkers which were cause for concern. Young women were drinking too much and often failed to realise they were.

"Alcopops are quite clubby and fun. It's probably quite difficult to estimate how much you're putting away," she said.

Mark Bennett, of Alcohol Concern, said individual retailers should not be left to make such decisions. There was a need for an independent panel, not the Portman Group, to assess their acceptability. "The test of these drinks is their disproportionate appeal to people under the age of 16."

Alcopops came third behind cider and lager for under-age drinkers. That was considerable success for a new drink. It was also notable because research showed alcopops attracted some young people who admitted they would not otherwise be drinking alcohol at all.

But Mr Bennett said industry sources were muttering already that the appeal of the fizzy drinks was waning. "People approaching their 18th birthday want to be drinking what the previous set were drinking.

alcohol products." Like bottled beers with lime in the



alongside beer, cider and shorts.

They're not a fad and there's a need top and ice beers, alcopops will have top and ice beers, alcopops will have top and there's a need top and ice beers, alcopops will have to be t

# Young drinkers flouting the law

A report commissioned by police into young people's experiences of alco-hol yesterday advocated lowering the legal age for buying drinks in pubs from 18 to 16.

The study carried out by the University of Wales, Bangor, for North Wales police shows that around 70 per cent of 16-year-olds are drinking already. It suggests one way of taking them off the streets and allowing them to drink in a more controlled environment would be to let them into pubs with ID cards.

Landlords would also have to adopt a tougher attitude on the amounts of alcohol being sold to any individual. But alongside this radical solution, the university researchers suggest that the age at which teenagers can buy alcohol across the counter at off-licences should be increased.

Assistant Chief Constable Elfed Roberts, of North Wales police, welcomed a public debate on the most effective ways of tackling the problem and whether changes in the law were required. "Young people by the age of 16, very largely, are quite familiar with alcohol. Some have got into the habit of drinking regularly."

Landlords and alcohol abuse support groups gave a cool response to the idea of lowering the legal age, claiming problems would be exacerbated.

The report surveyed more than

# Ulster urged to grasp second chance

Jojo Moyes

Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, vesterday urged political parties in Ulster not to miss the new opportunity for peace, describing it as "a second chance".

Ms Mowlam, who will meet Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, tomorrow, said that people caught a glimpse of what the future could hold dur-

in Fehruary 1996. The meeting will be the first between a government minister and Sinn Fein since just before the ending of the 17-month truce. It forms part of preparations for the scheduled entry by republicans to the Stormont

lalks process next month. Ms Mowlam told business leaders in Belfast that if she de-

the negotiating table on 15 September, By that time an international commission for arms decommissioning would also be in place. Both British and Irish governments, she insisted, were committed to the total disarmament of all para-

military organisations. Ms Mowlam said that the governments had an opportuing the first IRA ceasefire which cided by the end of the month nity to improve the basis on

collapsed with the bombing of that the ceasefire was geouine, which everybody could work to-the Isle of Dogs in east London Sinn Fein would have a place at gether, one that embraced balsupport it.

No one is going to be pushed or hullied or beguiled. anced constitutional change

more broadly based than the Open and honest discussion 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement. Politiciaos, she said, needed with all views on the table, is the only sensible and realistic way to pick up and run with change. forward. It threatens no one. "After all, what is there to fear?" she said. "Consent is there as a central and inviolable

Meanwhile, talks were under way yesterday to try to work out principle. There isn't going to a deal to ensure that this weekend's annual parade by 10,000 he any change in Northern Ire-Apprentice Boys in Londooland's constitutional status underry passes off without trouble.

nationalist Bogside Residents Association attended discussions chaired by the Mayor of

Derry, Martin Bradley. Alistair Simpson, governor of the Apprentice Boys, said after a lengthy meeting that it had beeo "very constructive". He said that the three sides seemed quite happy with the proposals put forward by the order for Saturday and he was hopeful of

About 100 members of the local Apprentice Boys are due to parade around the ancient city walls, including a contentious quarter-mile stretch above the Bogside, before joining the main Londonderry pa-

rade on Saturday.
The Bogside Residents group said it would not protest against the march around the walls if a deal could be struck over "feed-

Representatives of the order. a peaceful parado oext er parades by Apprentice Boys in the nationalist villages of the order. weekend. laghy, Co Londonderry as well as aloog Belfast's nationalist

Lower Örmeau Road. Last year the walls were closed to the marchers on public safety grounds on the orders of the former secretary of state, Sir Patrick Mayhew. The Apprentice Bows finally carried out their march two months late



Canadian who clicked with the great and glamorous

less a majority here want it. But

Michael Streeter

They are a revealing glimpse of the famous and glamorous of a bygooe era. An exhibition of work by the Canadian photogra-pher Roloff Beny provides an insight into the lives of some of the personalities who dominated the cultural stage from the 1950s onwards, including Laurence Olivier, Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nurevey and Coco Chanel. Best known for his interpretations of classical architecture and sculpture, a feature of Beny's rarer portraits were the

On his portrait of Rex Harrison he describes how he went to the actor's Hollywood home, expecting the shoot to last 10 minutes. Hours later, after a tour of the villa and several songs from Harrison's wife Rachel Roberts, the photographer ran out of time. "I realised I had a plane to catch and I snapped Rex in his mocogrammed slippers."

anecdotes he attached to many of

On a photo of Tennessee Williams, taken in 1958, Beny acknowledged the hrilliant dialogue the dramatist wrote, then added: "But in conversation he wandered so, that I can't remember anything he said." Beny, who died in 1984, referred to the photographs as his "Peo-

The exhibition, at Christie's, in King Street, London, runs from



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# death threat at Commons

Colin Brown and Stephen Goodwin

Friends of the dead Labour MP Gordon McMaster stopped him umping into the Thames from the terrace of the House of

Commons, it emerged last night. Roger Stott, a close friend of Mr McMaster, who last week gassed himself in his car at home, said the friends at the Commons had persuaded Mr McMaster not to go ahead with his threat to kill himself.

Mr Stott said he could not help hlaming himself for failing to do more to prevent the tragedy. "I didn't do enough. I think collectively as MPs we should do something to help MPs like Gordon who are clearly under pressure," he said.

"We need a parliamentary system to help MPs in stress. It crosses all parties and it hap-pened to lain Mills [a Tory MP who died after heavy drinking]."
Mr McMaster, the MP for

to have condemned two colleagues, Lord Dixon, a former deputy chief whip, and Tommy Graham, MP for the neighbouring seat of Renfrewshire West. Both deny any involvement in a whispering campaign and unsubstantiated smears about him being homosexual and suffering from Aids.

Mr McMaster asked for a copy to be sent to the Prime Minister and for the letter to be published. Close friends of the MP said it was unlikely that the Government would publish the letter which was clearly written

when his mind was disturbed. The chief whip, Nick Brown, is carrying out an inquiry at the request of the Prime Minister into the allegations contained in the cote, but Downing Street sources said it could take some

The whispering campaign against Mr McMaster, and the

if the Crown Office in Edinhurgh decides to hold a fatal accident inquiry into the MP's death. Contents of the suicide note might also be made pub-lic if such an inquiry were held.

However FAIs - similar to an inquest in England - are by no means automatic in Scotland and last night official sources were doubtful if one would be ordered,

An investigation by Strathclyde police concluded there were no suspicious circumstances behind the MP's suicide. The police sent a report to the Procurator Fiscal for Paisley, but would be for his superiors at the Crown Office to decide whether further action should be taken. The police have received no request to pursue the case further or investigate

claims of a poison-pen campaign against Mr McMaster. Fatal accident inquiries are

as the Dunblanc shooting or accidents on North Sea oil rigs.

Meanwhile. Jack Coming-

PRO OIS

Sussex mak

ham, the Agriculture Minister. came under pressure to speed up a decision on the future use of pesticides which may have played a part in Mr McMaster's decision to commit suicide.

A former professional gar-dener, Mr McMaster believed he was suffering from the chronic fatigue syndrome ME and that it might have been caused by organophosphates which he used as a pesticide.

Mr McMaster was a supporter of the All Party Group on Organophosphate Pesti-cides. Its leader, Paul Tyler, wrote to Dr Cunningham calling for an urgent meeting on banning the chemicals. He said: "I hope you will oow agree that our meeting is all the more urgent, if only to ensure that our hatred within the Paisley normally ordered when the Labour Party that lay behind it, Crown Office consider issues of soning is carried on " former colleague's commitment

# Redwood presses on with the Tory attack on Simon

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

John Redwood roday will ignore the threats of libel action by the Government and challenge ministers to come clean about the benefits that the trade minister, Lord Simon, will make on his £2m BP shares in a Jersey

He will challenge the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, over her assurances that Lord Simon would not beoefit from having his shares in the trust. Mr Redwood said the trade minister would benefit because the company would gain from the

arrangement. Stepping up his campaign over the alleged conflict of interest between Lord Simon's shareholdings and his role as a misleading the Commons over Government, in spite of misother noo-BP shareholdings.

Misleading the House is a sackable offence under the revised ministerial code of practice issued by the Government. Mr Redwood accused Mrs Beckett of giving assurances on 23 July that Lord Simon had transferred the Grand Met holdings worth an estimated in the Commons. £14.000 into a hlind trust, but his name was still on the share holding last Friday.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry rejected the charge, insisting that Lord Simoo had signed for the shares to be transferred into the hlind trust, as Mrs Beckett had informed the House and there were delays in the proce-

dure Mr Redwood is determined

also accused Mrs Beckett of to keep up the pressure oo the misleading the Commons over Government, in spite of misleading the Commons over Government (Commons over Government). MPs and peers. One former Cabinet minister is upset at the style of the attack on Lord Simon, and there have been rumhlings of discontent in the

House of Lords among Tory peers at the pursuit of Lord Simon, one of Britain's top husinessmen, by the Conservatives But William Hague, the Tory leader, who led the attack in the

House last Wednesday, is back-ing Mr Redwood and has ordered the Tory ranks in the Commons and the Lords to fall

Lord Parkinson, chairman of the Conscrvative Party, also appeared uncomfortable when he joined in the attack oo the former chairmao of BP last week. Lord Parkinson denied he

Lord Simon said he had a thick skin" and will not resign but the former chairman of BP may feel that in spite of the support he is getting from Tony Blair, the criticism is making his position untenable.

John Bercow, Tory MP for Buckingham, last night wrote to Peter Sutherland, chairman of the compensation committee at BP, questioning Lord Simon's

eligibility for his £2m shares. My understanding is that it is normal practice for staff who retire or who leave without going to another joh to be elighie to participate in such plans

"However, I did not think that it was normal for staff leaving to take another job still to receive benefits from their former company even if those benefits related to prior years"

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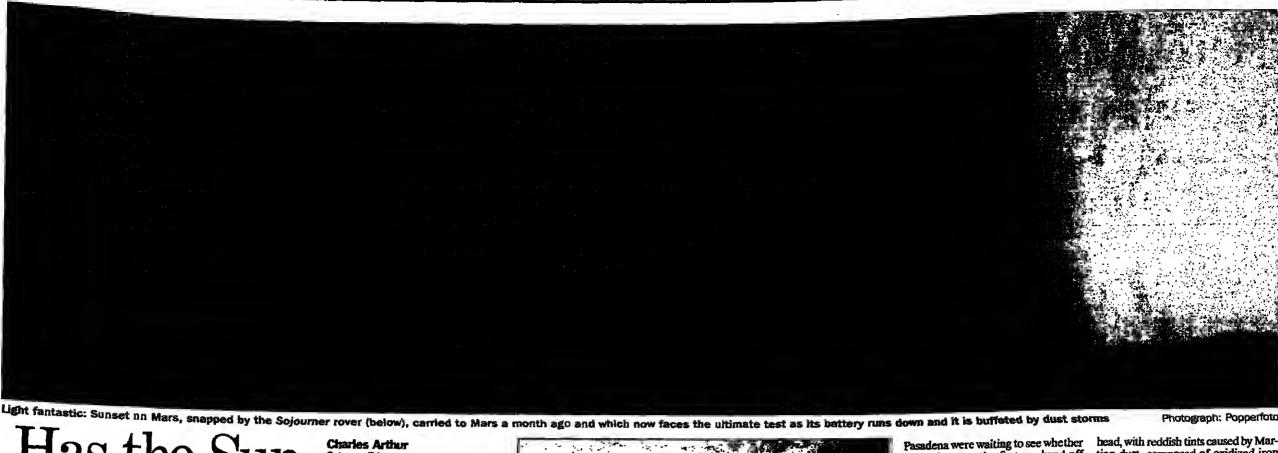
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# Has the Sun finally set on Sojourner's roving trip around the Red Planet?

Science Editor

It has survived four times longer than its designers expected, but now things are really going to get tough for the Sojoumer rover on Mars. After four weeks of working non-stop seven days a week, its hadly depleted battery will now at times he recharged from solar power, and it will effectively have to shut down overnight.

Though its controlling scientists are delighted with its work, and expert it could continue for a long time, in a few weeks the rover will face its toughest test since arriving on 4 July. In au-tumn, huge dust storms, with winds that could exceed 160km/h and which can last weeks or months, start.

That will limit the scientific work the rover, about the size of a microwave oven, can do. But scientists at the Nasa US space agency have already said they are satisfied with the mission, which began when the Pathfinder crash-landed into a dried-up river valley near the Martian equator four weeks ago after an eight-month journey.

Matthew Golombek, nue of the



Pathfinder project scientists, said that so far the mission has achieved all its scheduled scientific and engineering diate vicinity of the lander. But last goals. The team still plans for Sojourner

to do spectroscopie examinations of a number of other rocks in the imme-

a two-day rest, the first weekend nff Sojourner has had, had succeeded in

fully recharging its batteries.

The dust-filled atmnsphere and swings in temperature, which ranges from a high of -12C during the day to -76C at night, have made it mnre difficult to keep the battery charged.

Initially, Nasa had expected the Sojourner's batteries might survive for just a week before the charge-discharge cy-ele would become unsustainable.

But it has kept going for much longer, performing spectrometer studies to establish the composition of rocks that the scientists have dubbed Shark. Half Dome and Wedge.

The lander has been sending back increasingly high-quality pictures and data of the Martian sunrise and sun-

The spectacular images have come from a growing amount of data, with roughly 50 megabytes, equivalent to that stored on nearly 40 floppy disks, sent over the millions of miles through space from the nearest planet.

The dawn images revealed pale pink sunrises and clouds floating over-

head, with reddish tints caused by Martian dust, composed of oxidized iron - like rust - which is present in the atmosphere. Frozen water-ice clouds are evident in the Martian sky during the early-mnrning hours, hut evaporate once temperatures rise. 'We expect late-night and early-

morning clouds, but we expect those clouds will burn nff fairly rapidly with sunrise, giving way to a dusty Martian day," said Robert Haberle of Nasa. The sunset images showed a sky darkening to salmnn-coloured hues. Althnugh there has not been much

variation in these weather conditions since Pathfinder arrived, they are expected to begin changing in about a month, as the Martian autumn arrives. bringing the dust-storm season.

One image which has intrigued observers is that of a shiny object about 1,200m from the lander. But salivating ufolngists were firmly put nff by Michael Malin, a participating scientist. He said the object is about the same dimensions as Pathfinder, and is probably its discarded back-shell, which separated just before the space-

The briefing was seen by the Tories as confirmation of the

way the party machine has

taken nver No 10 press office

since Mr Mandelson and Mr

Campbell arrived. They have

merged the briefings on gov-

and are keeping a check on the nther press offices around

Whitehall. It has coincided with

the departure of at least three

chief press officers, which some

civil servants see as further ev-

idence of Downing Street tak-

ing a grip of the government

informatinn machine around

# Tories attack Labour's charade of spin

Chief Political Correspondent

Downing Street "spin doctors" were accused last night of leaking the MI6 inquiry of Chris Patten and the "reprieve" for the royal yacht Britannia as a series of blows to Labour's image, including Robin Cook's affair with his secretary.

The Shadow Home Secretary, Sir Brian Mawhinney, accused the Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, and Peter Mandelson, the duty minister during the holiday perind, of manipulating the press to stop the shine being taken off celebrations for Labour's first 100 days in nffice.

Sir Brian, the former Tory party chairman, alleged that the Downing Street information machine used press briefings about Britannia and the MI6 inquiry to take attention away from the series of blows to

Labour's image.
He elaimed that Downing Street feared the weekend newspapers would be dominated by the break-up of the Foreign Secretary's marriage, and that it would be damaging for the Government coming on top of the allegations against Labour figures in a suicide note by the Scottish MP Gordon McMaster, and the party's de-

feat in the Unbridge by election.

Downing Street was aware last week that details of Mr Cook's relationship with his secretary were about to break in the press on Sunday. Sir Brian said they used the brief-Brian said they used the brief-ings to stop the public coming always been a very good Mem-ber of Parliament and is a very about to break. Until then, he

tn terms with the tarnished image of Labour in office.
"Rohin Cook has been in the

news this weekend and it is understandable they would want in deflect attention away from Mr Cook's private activities. That is the same Mr Cook smokescreen to cover for a who has been lecturing us on high ethical standards from this Labour government - we now know what new Labour ethics are starting to amount to," Sir Brian said no BBC radin.

"I think there is media manipulation going on precisely to deflect attention away from the Uxbridge by-election defeat, from the difficulties in the private lives of ministers, and the

problems of Lord Simon, and the suspension of the Labour Party in Doncaster. All of these

related to the Conservative Party a few mouths ago would have been splashed from the top of the news tn the bottnm of the news, day in and day out."

Mr Mandelson, Minister



Without Portfolin, is due to host

to Labour's image a press conference on Friday with Jnhn Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, at Labour's Millhank campaign headquar-

ters, and the Tories believe Downing Street feared it would be tarnished.

Defence ministers had no



knowledge of the so-called "reprieve" for the royal yacht until they read it in the Sunday newspapers. They were dismayed by reports of a plan tn

and, as reported exclusively in yesterday's Independent, angrily denied that any decisinn had Downing Street yesterday

carry nut a £50m refit and confirmed that the refit was feared they were being merely one of the nptions, al-bounced into the decision though Mr Mandelson had apmerely one of the nptions, al-

opment, Downing Street yesterday also said police had nnt been called into the inquiry into

the allegations surrounding Mr Patten, leaving the threat of prosecution of the former Governor of Hong Kong, as re-ported in Sunday newspapers, looking overstated. The Sunday newspapers were briefed that Mi6 was in-

peared on Sunday in give it his

backing.
In a further unusual devel-

vestigating a possible breach nf the Official Secrets Act involving Mr Patten. The Foreign Office refused to comment, but Downing Street sources freely confirmed the reports were true and Mr Mandelson confirmed the existence of an MI6

The first to go was Jill Rut-ter, who left the Treasury last week after clashes with the special political advisers to the Chancellor, complaining it was like Princess Diana, with "three in a marriage". Andy Wood, chief press nificer at the Northern Ireland Office for 14 years,

Whitehall.

stepped down and went on leave last Thursday. It was also announced that Liz Drummond, chief press nfficer at the Scottish Office, is leaving next month, when the party and government machines will be campaigning for a "ves" vote in the referendums in

Scotland and Wales. The press officers are said to have gone amicably but civil servants have described it as heing like "a night of the long knives". Downing Street under John Major was forbidden to brief on party business. His last press secretary, Jonathan Haslam, a career civil servant, was moved after the election to the Department of Education and Employment as director of

# ook's estranged wife puts on brave face

Media fascination with the extra-marital affair nf Robin Cook, the Fnreign Secretary, showed nn signs of fading yesterday as sympathy grew for his estranged wife. Dr Margaret Cook broke

her silence over her husband's liaison with his Commons secretary, Gaynor Regan, by refusing to be hitter in public and stressing that he was a good MP and minister

In a brief statement she said: "Whatever my husband's private life may have been, he has to the general public."
But friends and neighbours

say Dr Cook, a consultant haematologist, is "devastated" after two attempts in the past year to persuade her husband to repair the damaged marriage.
It was revealed that Mr Cook

had planned a riding haliday with his wife in the US state nf Montana which he only cancelled because of the impending exposure of his affair.

A friend of Dr Cook said: "Let's face it, he noly told her the marriage was over last Fri-

good Foreign Secretary. These was preparing to go on holiday with her. He was going to fly out on Saturday. She feels publicly humiliated."

Dr Cook, 50, first found nut

about the affair last summer, said friends. She pleaded with her husband to end it and try to salvage the marriage.

The couple agreed to "work things out". But at Christmas

he returned home and admitted he was still continuing with the affair. Even then, friends claim, Dr

Cook asked him to try again, and he agreed. Thinking she had not been with him enough in his not been with him enough in his professional life, she went with him to Hong Kong for the han-

marriage was over.

It also emerged yesterday
that Mr Cook and Ms Regan, who is divorced, went in extraordinary lengths to avoid de-tection. According to reports, she would go into the flat that she shared with Mr Cook in Pimlico, south-west London, and apparently sit in darkness, sometimes for hours, to make it appear unoccupied, until he

dover. But last Friday, Mr Cook unld feed the parking meter beside Ms Regan's ReWorld was preparing to publish the story of his affair, and the sures to ensure his Special Branch bodyguards did not run

intn her. Having spent the week with his secretary, Mr Cook would return to the family hnme at weekends. In the past, Dr Cook described her husband as a romantic who bought her chocolates and flowers. She added: "Nnt many men do, I gather, I should be very grateful. He also buys me gorgeous underwear and nightdresses."

Tony Blair has expressed his

hut party spokesmen have stressed that unlike John Major, new Labour has never made a hig issue of "family values" or attempted to campaign on a "back to basics" platform.

One of Labour's female MPs said: "There is a lot of sympa-thy for Robin Cook's wife and a feeling he has treated her rather badly. This has appara year, and what came not shows they [Mr Cook and Ms Regan] made a lnt efforts to hide their affair. "As a woman, I feel quite

strongly about this and I know sadness at the "personal so do some of my colleagues".

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# Bumbling beekeepers breeding mite plague

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent** 

"And is there honey still for tea?" Perhaps not, in a few years - because many of Britain's beekeepers are failing to take a icthal parasite seriously.

Yesterday the largest organisation representing the nation's apiarists launched a stinging attack, saying there were far too many elderly, over-individualistic and outof-touch beckeepers letting the varroa run rifc.

Alan Johnson, chairman of the British Beekeepers' Association, launching the first National Varroa Week yesterday, said: "Either they should join us and treat this threat seriously, or get out of beekeeping."

The disease arrived in Britain in 1992, having aiready spread through Europe, First diagnosed in Devon, it has moved northwards through England Scottish border. The parasite is a mite, a pin-head sized, ovoid creature with stubby legs related to spiders and scorpions. It sucks body fluids from the developing grubs, leaving the adults to become weakened and spreading viral

diseases between bees. Even the hive at London Zoo in Regent's Park, where the awareness week was launched yesterday, has the parasite - but it has been treated and is under control.

Once the mite builds up a large population it can wipe out a hive. The surviving adults then abandon ship and fly off carrying mites which can infect other colonies.

More than honey is at stake, since both wild and kept honeybees are among the most important pollinators of crops and wildflowers.

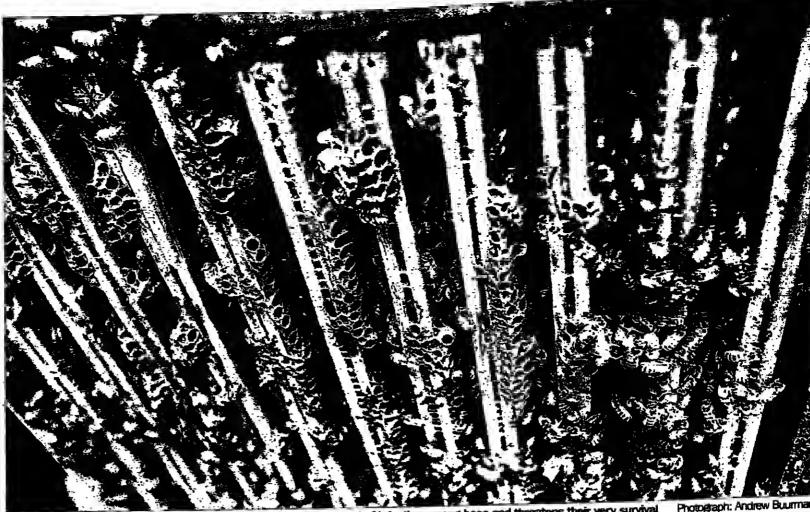
Mr Johnson said that when the disease was raging through Hampshire around

18 months ago nearly three-quarters of all colonies were lost. Local growers of strawberries, raspberries and apples and pears noticed a distinct decline in their crop.

Only one anti-varroa veterinary product is licensed by the government for use in Britain. Not surprisingly its manufacturer, Bayer, was keen to promote the awareness week yesterday.

The treatment consists of plastic strips impregnated with a pesticide hung in the hive which wipes out the mite but not the bee. The association wants its members to use the product, strictly according to instructions, in order to minimise the parasite's spread.

But most of the nation's 35,000 heekeepers, who mostly do it as a hobby, do not belong and many are elderly. In Britain 4,000 beekeepers bave notified the government of infection so



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# Poverty blamed for ethnic ill health

Gienda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

People from ethnic minorities who live in poverty have the worst health in Britain. according to research. Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are 50 per cent more likely to suffer ill-health than whites, while Caribbeans are 30 per cent

more likely to be in poor health. In the past, differences in health have been attributed to biological or cultural factors, but they are in fact linked to socioeconomic status, says the Policy Studies Institute.

he PSI research. looked at 8.000 people, shows that Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are in poorest health and at greatest risk of beart disease and diabetes. Caribbeans have the next poorest health and highest rates of hypertension and respiratory problems.

In comparison, Indians, African Asians and Chinese who are closest to whites in income are equally healthy.

In June, the Government announced that the former chief medical officer, Sir Donald Acheson, was to conduct an inquiry into why poor people die sooner than the rich, as part of a drive to highlight the impact of social issues on health.

The PSI found that while 11 per cent of whites reported lacking one or more basic housing amenities, 38 per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladesbis

were unemployed on average for seven months, Caribbeans experienced 21 months and Pakistanis and Bangladeshis 24.

Looking at standards of living, which included overcrowded accommodation, less than four consumer durables such as telephone, fridge, freez-er and washing machine, half of all Pakistanis and Bangladeshis had a poor standard of living compared to only 8 per cent of whites and 14 per cent of Indi-ans. Only 9 per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis had a good standard of living compared to 34 per cent of Indians and 43 per cent of whites.

ead of fa

Almost 40 per cent of Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Caribbeans reported that they had poor general health while this was the case for only a quarter of the more afflueot ethnic groups.

One in five of the poor ethnic groups said their ability to perform physical tasks - such as climbing a flight of stairs - was

limited by their health. Poor health is associated with poverty," said James Nazroo, author of the research. 'Some ethnic groups are among the poorest people in Britain and they also have the worst health. They also appear to be receiving poorer quality health care than whites.

☐ The Health of Britain's Ethnic Minorities; Grantham Books - 01476 541080; £14.95

## DAILY POEM

Rain

By Edward Thomas

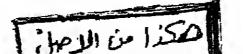
Rain, midnight rain, nothing but the wild rain On this bleak hut, and solitude, and me Remembering again that I shall die And neither hear the rain nor give it thanks For washing me cleaner than I have been Since I was born into this solitude. Blessed are the dead that the rain rains upon: But here I pray that none whom once I loved Is dving tonight or lving still awake Solitary, listening to the rain, Either in pain or thus in sympath Helpless among the living and the dead, Like a cold water among broken reeds, Myriads of broken reeds all still and stiff, Like me who have no love which this wild rain Has not dissolved except the love of death, If love it be towards what is perfect and Cannot, the tempest tells me, disappoint,

The First World War broke out on 4 August 1914. Edward Thomas, until then a critic, biographer and nature-writer, had only started to write the poetry for which he is now remembered in that year. He was killed at the Battle of Arras in 1917. "Rain" appears in Kenneth Baker's wide-ranging Faber Book of War Poetry (Faber & Faber, £20).

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into page 15





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# A plastic sheet, and we can read

**Lucy Ward** reports on a discovery that colour helps children learn

Transparent sheets of coloured plastic laid over books help children to speed up their read-

ing, psychologists say.

The discovery, made during experiments by the Medical Research Council, builds on provious work which repealed. previous work which revealed that pupils with a reading problem which makes words seem to "wriggle" oo the page can also be helped to conquer their dif-ficulties using the sheets.

Psychologists from the coun-

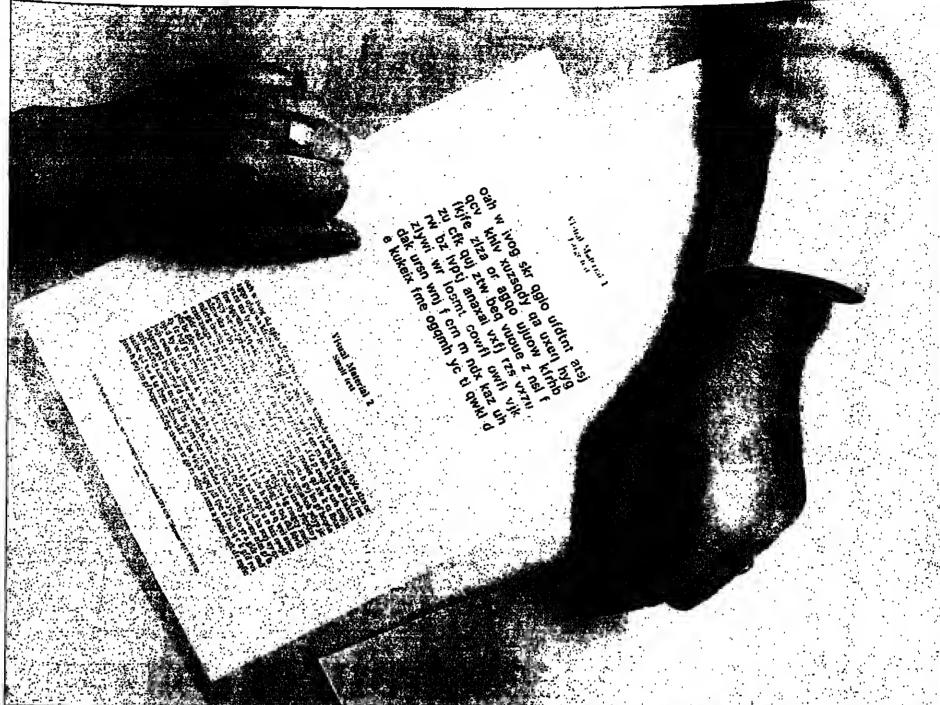
eil's applied psychology unit in Cambridge made the latest breakthrough after testing chil-dreo in schools in Cambridge and Norfolk. In 15 Norfolk schools, all the

eight-year-olds were asked to choose from a selection of tinied plastic sheets, known as overlays, to see which, if any, made reading clearer and easier. They were then timed as they read a series of random words on a printed card, both with and without the overlays. If they wished, they were permitted to keep the sheets - found to make a difference by more than half the children - and use them while reading in school.

Identical tests giveo to pupils at the start of the experiment last autumn and in June revealed that around one-fifth were ahle to read more quickly with the overlay than without. Meanwhile, those in a control group who had seemed to need overlays but had been denied them showed a deterioration in their reading rate. Those who had struggled most with reading were more likely to choose

an overlay to help.
The project, headed by
Arnold Wilkins of the Camhridge applied psychology unit, was led in Norfolk by David Pointon, head of the country's sensory support service. The results had been "dramatic", Mr Pointon said.

Norfolk already leads the field among local education authorities in using overlays to



Visual aid: Children found that putting tinted sheets over their books helped to keep words still an the page, and enabled them to read faster

help children who are experiencing some reading difficulties. Research carried out in New Zealand and the United States prompted the authority six years ago to explore the potential of the coloured sheets. "Children were coming to us and saying

letters moved or jiggled and of course, in common with lots of other people, we were saying Are you sure?"," Mr Pointon said. "But then we began to hear more about this research and became less sceptical about it."

known as "visual perception difficulty" see letters appear to move and create stripes and patterns rather than clear text. One boy referred to Mr Pointon described what he saw as "the letters getting up and running Children with a condition

In Norfolk, pupils suffering serious problems have been given overlays to use over their schoolbooks. If they continue to rely on the sheets, they are sent to an optician to be prescribed

Researchers are also exam-

ining the role of coloured plastic sheets in tackling migraines.

Bruce Evans, of the Institute of Optometry in London, said: some people get migraines when light is a trigger and they may also be helped by coloured filters, perhaps in glasses."

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

He added: "The weird thing about this is different people need different colours and sometimes the colour a person needs can be quite specific. They may need a hlue filter but if it's light hlue instead of dark

# Head of failing school signs up as inspector

Lucy Ward

**Education Correspondent** 

The headteacher of a Cambridge primary school which was found to be failing despite educating the children of university academics is to inspect other schools after stepping down from his post.

Martin Lown, who leaves Newnham Croft Primary at the end of this month after 10 years at the school, passed a training course run by the inspection

teams inspecting primary schools next term.

Parents at Newnham Croft, who include a number of Camhridge University tutors and lecturers, were shocked when a pupils to learn properly. highly critical Ofsted inspection report published in March found that the school was failing to provide its pupils with an acceptable standard of education.

Although pupils were often matching national expectations for their age group, their work

agency Ofsted and will joio io class was not reflecting their full capabilities, inspectors found, Although reception classes gave children a good start, the atmosphere in classrooms higher up the school did not enable

> In infant classes, no work at all was of a high standard, inspectors found. They wrote in their report: "Hardly any work is m line with the expected standard for their age, although pupils' talk indicated that they are articulate and quick on the uptake. Writ

ing and number work is careless for contracts from Ofsted to inand meagre in quality."

Inspectors recommended that the school should improve curriculum planning to ensure all subjects were covered and set out clear goals for each lesson. Some parents had accused the school of refusing to listen to their complaints that their childreo were progressing too slowly.

As a team inspector, who joined the Ofsted register three years ago, Mr Lown has signed signed up with agencies who hid

spect primary schools. To be accepted as a team in-

spector, teachers or heads have to demonstrate that they have sufficient experience of their subject area or of management of schools, and must provide references. If considered suitably qualified, they must undergo five days of training spread out over up to eight weeks - a process described as rigorous by

Mr Lown said that Newnham

cus on teaching quality and particularly on standards in nu-Croft had been through a numher of "crises and difficulties, most of which were beyond my meracy and literacy. control". He had told inspection However, Mr Woodhead acagencies of the situation and all knowledged last week at a had told him they were happy

teachers' conference that the service needed to remedy some weaknesses among team inspectors. Some needed more training to ensure that they were qualified to inspect a variety of subjects, while others had been "inhumane" in denyspection, the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, has ing teachers feedback after classroom observation.

need to make cuts. Disagreeing, the judge said the 1996 Com-

munity Health Couocil regula-

tions were clearly aimed at

ly undermine the purpose of the

has been given a low priority by

health authorities recently".

# Courses target 'second career' teachers

Adults in search of a second career are being invited to try their hand at teaching during threeday government-funded "taster courses" aimed at comhating a classroom recruitment crisis,

writes Lucy Ward.
Potential teachers of five subjects facing a serious staff shortage spend a day in school and two days with tutors learning more about the professioo.
In the classroom, they may take the register, observe lessons

or may be offered the chance to

teach briefly under supervision. The scheme, run by London University's Institute of Education, comes shortly after the Government announced proposals for "fast-track" teacher training, in which would-he teachers with some classroom experience can qualify for the professioo in three mooths.

That initiative, prompted by the severe shortfall in some curriculum subjects, was greeted warily by teaching union leaders, who suggested the current year-loog postgraduate course was most appropriate for teacher training.

The subjects covered by the taster courses, which are backed by the Teacher Training Agency, are physics and broad science. maths, modern foreign languages, religious education and design and technology.

Candidates applying will take the courses during October and November, and will spend a day in the classroom in one of 170 partner secondary schools ap-

proved by the Institute. They will also learn about recent changes in education, including qualifications and the national curriculum, and study other aspects of a teaching career, such as pastoral work.

Surveys for the TTA revealed a need "to attract more high quality entrants to the teaching profession".

Reports by the schools inspection agency Ofsted have highlighted the need for sperialist teachers in RE, and new developments in the subject have increased demand...

Design and technology, also a shortage subject, would benefit from having qualified people with industrial experience to teach at GCSE level, the TTA believes.

Carol Macaskill, head of the institute's initial teacher education section, said the courses might appeal to adults seeking a new career after being made

"Downsizing in the City and in industry may mean people are looking for a second career," she said. "We are spreading awareness of the possibilities, and trying to give an idea of the pos-sibilities of teaching."

# Stricter rules for treasure hunters offer silver lining

Kim Sengupta

Arts minister Mark Fisher yesterday unveiled oew guidelines to codify treasure hunting for the first time in 750 years.

Until now the rules of treasure hunting have been based on common law practices. The new code lays down a series of penalties for those who try to keep their find a secret. Under the Treasure Act

Code of Practice, anyone who fails to disclose their bounty within 14 days faces a maximum sentence of three months imprisonment and a £5,000 fine.

The measures, introduced by the Department of Culture, least 10 per cent gold or silver around 25 a year to 200.

if it can prove they are made substantially of gold or silver", if they are deliberately hidden,

or if the owner is not known. The reforms, which come into effect on 24 September. widen the definition of treasure by removing the oeed to estab-lish that it was hidden with the considered as treasures is also reduced or withheld. expanded to include coins more than 300 years old found in

to safeguard treasures for the nation. The Crown now only has a claim to unearthed antiquities chaeological association with the above; plus any object covered by previous definitions. A comprehensive system of rewards is also being intro-

duced. Owners of land containing treasure would have to be informed of the find, aod would become eligible for cash awards. Finders who inform landowners of their searching would also receive rewards, but those who fail to do so, or who intention of recovery. The classification of items which can be trespass, could find the amount

The Government expects the oew act will iocrease its numhoards; other objects with at ber of treasure hauls from



Mr Fisher said yesterday "The Government is fully committed to seizing this opportunity to educate people on the good practices they should adopt when they find objects which might be declared treasures."

## Hospital closures unlawful close in-patieot services at two West Country cottage hospitals to save money was ruled unlawful and blocked by the High

Court yesterday. In what is being seen as a test case which could affect other health authorities, a judge ruled that North and East Devon Health Authority "erred in law" in failing to appreciate at an ear-ly stage that the closure proposals had triggered a duty to consult the public.

The judge said the duty arose last April, when it was clear that the threateoed closures of Winsford and Lynton hospitals was under consideration. Health chiefs did not formally

decide to go ahead with the clo-

A cash-strapped health au- sures until June and then said that there would be oo formal consultations with the community health council, or the public, because the cuts had to be

to accept him, he said. Only the

agency which had sent the team

to his own school had declined

to add his name to its books, "by

continued to stress Ofsted's fo-

Since the Newnham Croft in-

mutual agreement".

was an error which "tainted" the closure decisions. There could be little doubt that by June the need to make savings "to balance the books" was urgent, as earlier estimates of the health authority's deficit had been "too optimistic". The amount

had riseo to £2.2m. Philip Engelman, for the health authority, had argued that the decision to dispense with consultation could not be impugned as "irrational" and unlawful because of the urgent

achieving sufficient time for made as an emergency measure to save £215,000. proper consultation". If a health authority "could Mr Justice Moses said this allow time to pass to the point where matters were so urgent that there was no time left for consultation" it would serious-

> specific regulation which allowed them to avoid consultatioo in emergency situations.
> "It would permit a health authority, taking the view there was only one practicable solution, to pre-empt the result of proper consultation," said the ige, adding that "consultation

local residents dependent on the two hospitals who brought the successful High Court challeoge, unofficially estimated to have cost the health authority

They included Andrea Baylis, from Cardingham, near Bodmin, who was opposing on be-half of her mother, Greta, a decision of North and East Devon HA to instruct Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust to close temporarily in-patient services at Winsford Hospital by

15 August at the latest. The health authority faces having to go through a six-week consultation period over the proposed closures unless the ruling is overturned as the judge granted leave to appeal.

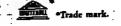
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nman and Thelma and Louise. Midnight Cowboy and Rainman?

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# Russia offered nought for its comfort

Yeltsin's new roubles look suspiciously like the old ones, less a few zeros

Helen Womack Moscow

Success in the fight against inflation had made possible a reform which would relieve Russians of the need to carry wads of roubles to make the simplest purchases, President Boris

Yeltsin said yesterday. Showing he had learnt from past mistakes, when such reforms caused panic and amounted to a confiscation of savings, he gave five months' notice of the change and said that even after new rouble notes were in-troduced on 1 January the old ones would be valid until 2002.

"Today we reliably control monev circulation and control inflation," he said in an address to the nation as he ended his summer holiday and prepared to resume work in Moscow today. The prices of basic goods are practically stable. That is why we made the decision to conduct the money reform." Thanks to a tight budgetary policy on which reform-crs have insisted and in spite of howls of protest from the Communist opposition. Russia has seen a miracle over inflation, which rocketed when prices were first freed in 1992 until 1996, when it fell to 22 per cent. This year it is 12 per cent.

Under the reform, one new rouble will be worth 1.000 old ones. Un-til the end of 1998 shoppers can still use old notes, simply knocking off three noughts. For another three full three noughts. For another three full a few days to change their money, years after that the old notes will be Pensioners bad heart attacks in the



Cashing in: An old note, to be replaced gradually by 2002, to avert a repeat of the panic which often attended monetary reform in the past

accepted for exchange by the banks. "Nobody will lose anything as a re-sult of this reform," Mr Yeltsin said. "Nobody's interests will be barmed. This reform will not be a confiscation." Russians bave not forgotten the summer of 1993, when the goverament announced it was withdrawing certain denominations of the rouble and gave the population only

huge queues which built up outside without all the extra zeros. New zeros and many, unable to make the ros will never again appear on our transaction in time, lost their life's

This time the more competent hands of Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov, the new reformers now surrounding Mr Yeltsin, are evident. We will gradually replace the old money with new," said the President.

ros will never again appear on our banknotes.

Geoff Winestock, editor of the Moscow Times and an expert on the economy, said the reform was largely cosmetic, designed to make Russians feel they bad a real currency instead of Monopoly money. At present, they must carry a sackful of "The standard unit will be one rou-hle. It will be easier, more familiar, hles a loaf or vodka at 18,000; the

rouble has limited convertibility at a rate of 5,800 to one US dollar. Everything depends on how the

government runs the economy from now on," said Mr Winestock. "After what Mr Yeltsin has said, it will be very embarrassing for them to have to add more zeros to the rouble, so public-relations exercise. It is a way of forcing themselves to be bonest. Overall, the economy is still not is far higher than statistics show.

healthy. The pension backlog has been cleared but the government is having to auction state property to meet obligations to the army and the massed ranks of unpaid doctors. teachers and other public workers. Compared with Soviet times, Russian shops are bursting with goods to in a sense this is a hit more than a satisfy the consumer but they are mainly imports. Domestic industry is on its knees and unemployment

States

The state of the s

## Money madness

The Russian government is by no means the first to try the trick of knocking off a few zeroes, writes Margaret Rogerson. Brazil, Argentina, Yugoslavia and many others confronted with hyperinflation have tried the same tactic. In an effort to curb initiation, the Raichsbank in Weimar Germany issued a new mark each one worth a trillion old marks - to save Germans from taking a wheelbarrow of money to the shops: in November 1923 a loaf of bread cost over 200 billion marks; a construction worker was paid

3 trillion marks a day.
The world's worst inflation occurred in Hungary in 1946 when the 1931 gold pengo was valued at 130 million trillion paper pengos. Notes were issued for egymilliard billion" - 10 with 21 noughts after it - on 3 June and withdrawn on 11 July.

# significant shorts

# EU raises stakes in row over Bosnian integration

Britain and its main European partners stepped up pressure for a real peace in Bosnia by suspending contacts with Bosnian embassies, because of the failure of the Muslim-Serb-Croat presidency in Sarajevo to appoint new amhassadors to their capitals. A week after visiting Bosnia to deliver a scolding for slow progress on the Dayton accords. Rohin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said he was suspending contact with Mugdim Pasict, the Bosnian charge d'affaires in London. He is also refusing to approve a new amhassador, because it has not been cleared by the joint presidency by the I August deadline set by Nato foreign ministers in May. Similar steps are heing taken by France and Germany. The ministers have set deadlines for new laws on citizenship and passports by 15 August, re-establishment of a joint civil-aviation authority by 21 August, and a common flag by Rupert Cornwell

# India mystifies UK university

A British university said it was surprised to learn an Indian court had ordered it to stop awarding degrees in India – something it has never done. "It's a very strange legal system that can grant an injunction against somebody about something they're not doing," said Vanessa Bridge, spokeswoman for the University of Leeds. Its name cropped up in a temporary court order in Madras seeking to stop foreign schools holding classes, collecting fees or operating in India. AP - Lond

## **SA hit-men granted amnesty**

A former South African police hit-squad leader was granted amnesty from prosecution for the murder of an anti-apartheid lawyer. Dirk Coetzee and two accomplices. David Tshikalanga and Almond Nofomela, were amnestied by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the stabbing of the lawyer Griffiths Mxenge in 1981. The commission said they had acted on orders of senior Reuters - Johannesburg

## German flood bombshell

German soldiers reinforcing dikes along the Oder river had to remove four Second World War bombs. The find balted construction of a levee behind the weakened main AP - Frankfurt an der Oder dike at Reitwein.

# Oldest person, 122, dies

Jeanne Calment, who credited olive oil and port for making her the world's oldest person, died aged 122 in Arles. Though blind, nearly deaf and in a wheelchair, she remained spirited and mentally sharp to the end. On her 121st hirthday she released a CD, Time's Mistress, on which she reminisced to rap. Obituary, page 10

# French feel strain of colonial legacy

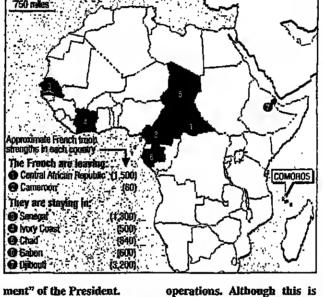
# Military presence reduced in Africa

Paris - The French government confirmed yesterday that it intended to reduce and rationalise its military presence in Africa, writes John Alain Richard, the minister

of defence, returning from a the permanent French commitment would be reduced from seven bases to five and from 8,100 men to 6,000. The previous centre-right government had been consid-

ering a similar retrenchment, partly for financial reasons but also as part of a less interventionist approach to the politics of its former colonies. There has been speculation that the new Socialist-led

government wanted to go further and faster, provoking argaments with President Jacques Chirac. But Mr Richard told the newspaper Liberation yesterday that the capital, to maintain a bridgechanges had the "full agree-



He said the intention was to increase the mobility of the French troops available for African operations, allowing France to "do the same with less". The five main bases would be in Senegal, Gabon, Chad, Ivory Coast and in Djibouti (partly covering the Middle East). Bases in Cameroon and Central Africa would close, but a small contingent could remain at the airport at Bangui, the Central African head for possible future French

operations. Although this is far from a complete abandon-ment of France's political and military role in Africa, it does reflect a new approach and a

Mr Richard hinted, without stating directly, that previous French policy had been based on a willingness to take sides in internal political quarrels. In future, he said, the inten-

tion would be to come to the aid of threatened French citizens, to help to "stabilize" Africa but not to "arbitrate between rival

## John Lichfield

After 21 years of independence, the tiny Indian Ocean island of Anjouan, has had enough. It wants, once again, to be part of France and, especially, part of the French welfare system.

More than 7,000 people marched through the capital at the weekend carrying the tricolour and a portrait of President Jacques Chirac. After throwing a few stones at the gendarmerie headquarters. their leaders declared independence from the Comoros group and begged Paris to "bear their cries of distress".

dismissed their pleas: but so did France. Paris maintains excellent relations with most of its former colonies and does not want to encourage the disintcgration of former colonial boundaries. It is unlikely to want to take over responsibility for an impoverished, overcrowded island (250,000 people in an area the size of the Isle of Wight, with a annual average in-

come per bead of about £300). The inhabitants - Les Anjouanais - look enviously at the similar-sized island of Mayotte, 60 miles to the south-east. which refused independence in a referendum in 1974. Mayotte, as part of France, has a

# Islanders beg Paris to take them back

higher standard of living, free education a minimum wage. family allowances and social security. The separatists say Anjouan has been "ignored and humiliated in the last two decades by successive regimes in the capital Moroni, on the Grand Comoro Bland, to the north-west.

The dispute sounds like the plot for an Evelyn Waugh novel. But it has its darker side. Although the weekend protest passed off without injury. Comoran soldiers fired on a similar demonstration in March, killing one person and injuring a dozen. There were also violent confrontations, leading to two deaths, when thousands of Anjouanais poured onto the streets on 14 July to celebrate the French national day. Inhabitants of the third, and smallest inhabited island in the group, Moheli, have also started to agitate to be returned to France.

interest in regaining these scraps of empire, formerly separate Arab-controlled emirates, annexed by France in 1912. France, the ministry said, remains committed to the "territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of the Comoros. It hopes that, in this internal Comoran affair, a spirit of nego-tiation will prevail.

The President of the Co-

has made it clear that it has no

moros, Mohamed Taki Abdoulkarim, has recently taken a conciliatory line, offering the smaller islands greater autonomy and an opportunity to draw up a short-list from which their governors would be chosen. But the Andonjan revolt, led by Abdallah Ibrahim, 71, has gathered considerable popular support in the last four months.

In the referendums held on the islands in December 1974, Andoujan voted overwhelmingly for independence as part of the Comoros Republic. The count was 99.92 per cent in favour of separation from France, with only 44 voters against. Mayotte, with a population of only 94, .0, voted 64 per cent to remain as a French territory. Since then, Mr Ihrahim claims, the smaller islands have been starved of wbatever economic developments bave occurred in the The French foreign ministry coup-haunted Comoros.

# Civilians fall casualty to shattered truce

Beirut

It was accompanied by all the usual clichés. An operation of "surgical pre-cision", every care taken for civilian life, "well within the parameters of the April [1996 truce] understanding". That is how the commander of the

Golani Brigade put it yesterday after his men had returned from their firefight at the small Lebanese village of Kfour, north of their occupation zone. And it is true that at least five Hizbol-

lah guerrillas were killed and another two wounded.

Unfortunately for the mangled south Lebanese ceasefire, however, three civilians were wounded in Kfour and the fighting took place around the village; the wounding of civilians and fir-ing into villages are both banned under the terms of the ceasefire agreement.

A pitched battle bad begun in the early hours after Israeli troops bad been flown by helicopter to a location close to Kfour and encountered both Lehanese army troops and Hizbollah

men. When they retreated back to their their hands" Which may be true. helicopters, the Israelis laid booby-trap mines behind them - into which the five Hizbollah men blithely walked once

the Israelis bad flown away. In military terms, it was indeed a coup for the Israelis. The Hizbollah have been exacting a fearful toll on Israeli occupation soldiers inside Lebanon and the dead included Hussein Kassir, the local Hizbollah commander. He and his guerrillas, according to Colonel Eretz, the Golani commander, had "Golani blood on

But it is now only a matter of time before a further attack will be made on Golani soldiers in Lebanon now that they have obligingly let the Hizbollah know which Israeli unit to revenge themselves upon. The Lehanese authorities are already drafting their next complaint to the five-power ceasefire committee - whose chairmen have been pleading for more restraint in southern Lebanon - and the truce is just a little more tattered. ■ Israel arrested 29 Palestinians early month hreak

vesterday in a sweep of the West Bank, as part of a strike to weaken Islamic militants after a twin suicide bombing took 15 lives in Jerusalem last week. Israel also stepped up demolition of houses built without permits by east Jerusalem

Arabs, razing four, AP reports.
Since Wednesday's bombing, Israel
has arrested 145 Palestinians, imposed tight travel restrictions on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and suspended talks with the Palestinians that had just resumed after a four-

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Money madness The Russian governments by no means the first to by have med the same term the Reichsbank in Weine versider 1923 a daf of pres 3 traign marks a day The Aprild's April inflate-

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DELTE

THE INDEPENDE

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when a homb goes off in the United States, or a bomb conspiracy is uncovered,

> Initial police reports last Thursday said that two Palestinians arrested on suspicion of plotting to bomb the New York subway belonged to Hamas. Now Federal Bureau of Investigation and White House officials are saying they have no reason to believe the two men are connected to Hamas or any other Middle Eastern gronp. More per-plexingly, US authorities do not yet know the political identity of those responsible for the blast at New York's World Trade Centre four ago, which killed six people and in-

actly who is behind it or why.

jured more than 1,000. The trial was expected to begin yesterday in Manhattan of Ramzi Yousef, who is accused of having been the mastermind



Ed O'Loughlin reports from Gulu on a crusade orchestrated by a former Catholic altar boy

many LRA soldiers went into action armed only with stones and machetes, smearing themselves with ointments that Konv said would render them hullet-

or the past five years,

the people of northern

Uganda have lived in

terror of a strange and

bloody children's crusade.

Led by a 34-year-old former Catholic altar boy called Joseph

Kony, the army of abducted and

hrainwashed children that calls itself the Lord's Resistance

Army has murdered thousands

of civilians and devastated

Their aim is to overthrow

President Yoweri Museveni's

government and rule Uganda in

accordance with the Ten Com-

four years ago, the authorities

in Gulu district say the LRA has murdered 5,000 people and

perhaps as many again in neigh-

have been displaced into pro-

tected camps, while the UN

World Food Programme re-

ports that war and drought are

forcing it to feed 140,000 peo-

second Sabbath. His enemies say this is a concession to his

main hacker, the fundamental-

ist Islamic government of neigh-

The deepest religious influ-

eaponry in the past four years,

without a

cause

**baffles** 

the FBI

bouring Sudan.

but witchcraft.

They believe 230,000 people

Since the insurgency flared

much of the north.

mandments.

bouring Kitgum.

ple in the reginn.

He also ordered that all white livestock and chickens in rebel areas be slaughtered, along with anyone harbouring them.

Survivors of his base camps in southern Sudan say he often explains his orders by saying that "the Holy Spirit told me to do UN Children's Fund (Unicef)

Oyet Lakweka, In addition to those killed, aid who claims to workers say hundreds - perhaps he 18 and a thousands - more have been at- lieutenant in tacked and mutilated for dis- the rebel army, obeying Kony's decrees. admit Anybody caught riding a biadmitted havkilled cycle—the main transport in this remote region — is likely to be killed or have their feet hacked heing abductoff. Those who speak ill of the ed from his vilrebels have had lips or noses cut lage, including about 200 mas-More recently, Kony de-clared pigs will not be toleratsacred Atiok, in Gulu ed and that Friday should be a

district, in Museveni: The rebels have vowed to control to the rebels have

His field commander had told him an an- against their own families. gel ordered the massacre. Lakweka was one of 18 children and rebel fighters captured ence on Kony, many suspect, is neither Christianity nor Islam, in the Gulu-Kitgum region last

Before they acquired large quantities of modern infantry

The youngest, Simnn Ocan, said he was 13 and had killed two people. The first was a snl-(Uganda's government accuses
Sudan of supplying them),

Wo people. The hist was a stifdier of the Sudanese People's
Liberation Army, which, with

Uganda's aid, is fighting a war ers, with whom it now refuses against the Khartoum government in southern Sudan.

The second was another child who tried to escape the LRA after they were both abducted. As new "recruit". Simon had been ordered to help beat him to death.

For an instant his impassive face contorted: "I was sorry for

A recent report from the estimates up

> LRA and taken to southern Sudan. Those abducted are

routinely ordered, no pain of death, to kill others guilty of breaching dis-Sometimes they are or-

dered to carry out atrocities Young girls are forced to act as wives" for older commanders.

trauma counselling centre in Gulu has cared for 3,000 children who escaped or were captured by the Ugandan army.

The World Vision charity says that since March 1995 its

The Ugandan government has promised an amnesty for all hut the most senior LRA lead-SPLA rebels in southern Sudan.

to negotiate.

The irony is that Kony draws both his killers and his victims from his own trihe, the Acholis. These were among the northern tribes which controlled Uganda from independence in 1962 until 1986, when Mr Museveni's National Resistance Army, composed mainly of southerners and westerners,

took power. The NRA's victory ended years of slaughter that cost hundreds of thousands of lives under Idi Amin, Milton Obote and Tito Okello, hut many Acholi feared they would lose influence under the new order. In 1987 thousands joined the "Holy Spirit Movement" of Alice Lekwana, an Acholi faithhealer whose supporters marched on Kampala armed principally with prayers and magic charms.

They were half-way there before Mr Museveni's men established that holy oil did not repel small-arms fire.

After Lekwana fled to Kenya, Kony, a young peasant with a reputation for delinquency and oratory, emerged as leader of a fresh Acholi resistance movement. Linking up with remnants of the old Acholi-dominated army, he gained new contacts among Acholi exile communities in Britain and North America and with the Islamic fundamentalist regime in Khartoum, keen to avenge itself for Mr Museveni's support of the

### says, by awareness that the LRA's crusade is directed against its own penple. Foreign aid workers in the region say that the guerrillas depend more on fear than support. The army says only around 400 LRA guerrillas now remain in Uganda, and even these are running short of am-

The commander of Ugandan

forces in the north, James Kazi-

ni, blames the LRA's continu-

ing existence on weapons from

Sudan and support among dis-

will be shot if they surrender.

These, he complains, refuse

affected Acholi elders.

Colonel Kazini claims to have killed 57 of these in July alone, while another 45 de-

Photograph: Ed O'Loughlin

serted or were captured. "If the SPLA captures Juha (capital of southern Sudan) then the LRA will vanish en-

tirely," he says. But this is not the first time the authorities have proclaimed the LRA's demise. "From what we hear they still seem to co-operate with the army and falsely tell guerrillas that they to be well-organised," said He is confident that the the representative of an aid LRA's days are now numbered agency operating in Gulu and Acholi hostility to Mr Mu-seveni is counterbalanced, he Kitgum. "I don't think they've tinished vet."

# Korean foes jaw in bid to end war

Richard Lloyd Parry Tokyo

On paper, but only on paper, it looks like a momentous occasion. This morning in New York, for the first time since it fizzled to an inconclusive end in 1953, the four principal com-batants in the Korean War will sit around a single table and talk about peace. The talks, between North and South Korea, plus China and the US, have been the object of diplomatic inil since spring, when they were suggested by President Bill

Clinton and President Kim

Young Sam of South Korea.

The tag-line for the meetings **'You can't** is that they will eventually restore rule out peace to Korea for the first time since the 1950-53 war, which ended you begin in a ceasefire rather than a per-

manent treaty. But nobodyis expecting to hoist the bunting for a long time yet. The initial goals are so modest as to appear footling; military exchanges between the rival armies, advance notification of exercises and crisis hotlines. The US hopes to bring peace to Korea by offering Pyongyang supplies of fertiliser. Officials speak of offering their expertise in reforesting the

mountains of the North. But it turns out we have not even got that far. These subjects will be raised at the talks themselves, but today's meeting at Columbia University is only a

talk about talks. That the Koreas are sitting down to talk to one another is achievement enough, especially in company with the North's Korean War sponsor, China. But the modesty of the agenda

emphasises how many diplomatic leagues there are to cross before any settlement is reached and how alarmingly isolated Pyongyang has become. There are few pointers on this road to peace and the one obvious precedent - reunification of East and West Germany - offers more differences than sim-

Through television and radio, East Germany bad been bathed in Western brand names and aspirations for years. In Korea, communication is almost nonexistent. This is as much a consequence of Seoul 's paranoia as Pyongyang's totalitarianism.

The only way out of North Korea is defection, hut South Koreans who visit the North without results before permission are also imprisoned, and forbidden from phone, fax or postal com-

munication South Korean engineers will soon make an unprecedented official journey to the North to install nuclear reactors to replace ones suspected of contributing to nuclear weapons. Yesterday special phone lines were opened for them to contact their families.

Given such mistrust, confidence-building measures are simply a humble recognition of political realities. "Just because they may have very low expectations for these talks, the talks can succeed in spite of it," a US official said in Washington. You can't rule out results before you begin."

With time, it is hoped, they will lead to closer contact, although, with a worsening food crisis, it is unclear how much time North Korea has left.

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Mystery figure: Ramzi Yousef, was due to stand trial yesterday for masterminding the 1993 bomb at the World Trade Centre

behind the World Trade Centre blast. But John Carlin not only do prosecutors have no idea whether Mr Yousef belongs to any terrorist organisation, they do no even know what A terrorist act is, by definition, political, but

nationality he is. the authorities do not appear to know ex-

The timing of last week's suspected plot appears so far to be the only clue suggest-ing Harnas might be targeting New York. Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer and Lafi Khalii were arrested in a Brooklyn apartment, allegedly in possession of a batch of pipe bombs, only 24 hours after the suicide bombing in Jerusalem which killed 15 people and

for which Hamas did claim responsibility. The FBI are also exploring the hypothesis that Mr Mezer and Mr Khalil might have intended their alleged bombing plans to coincide with the start of Mr Yousef's trial, indicating that he is also a member of Hamas.

For now, the evidence appears just as strong, however, that Mr Abu Mezer and Mr Khalil were acting on their own. Hamas released a statement at the weekend denying any connection with the two arrested

Palestinians. "Hamas does not consider the American people an enemy and it does not target any of its communities," it said.
According to relatives of Mr Abu Mez-

er and Mr Khalil, it was laughably off the mark to suggest the two men belonged to Hamas. Their involvement in the Palestinian cause was said to be minimal and neither was particularly religious. The FBI have not ruled out the possibil-

ity that the two, who are in their early twen-

ties, are freelance fanatics in the manner of

the US's home-grown Oklahoma bomber, Timothy McVeigh. And the FBI still do not know who planted the bomb in Atlanta during the Olympic Games a year ago, much less what their agenda might have been. ■ New York (Reuter) — Opening arguments in the trial of the accused mastermind of the World Trade Centre bombing were postponed yesterday due to the illness of one juror and the dismissal of an alternate juror. The judge said the opening arguments would begin today.

# **Sviatoslav Richter**

Sviatoslav Richter was a connoisseur's pianist, a supreme lyric poet of the keyboard for whom the piano was an extension of his own body and mind and a means to musica) thought that was devoted to the composer in question.

Richter was not a virtuoso in the flamboyant sense of parading his talent to dazzie an audience; instead he required from his listeners an act of intense concentration to match his own incomparable approach to the music. Those who could not summon this were apt to grow restless during his performances, although even they might realise that they were hearing something exceptional.

His interpretations were more a matter of re-creation than reproduction, so that no two performances of the same work were likely to be identical. His repertory ranged from Bach, played with a clarity of insight into the music's structure and content, to Prokofiev, with whom he had a close association after giving the premiere of the composer's Sixth Sonata in 1942, and later of the Seventh and Ninth Sonatas, the latter of which is dedicated to him. He also made a single conducting appearance in the premiere of Prokofiev's Symphony-Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in 1952, with Mstislav

Rostropovich as soloist. Richter was born at Zhitomir in Ukraine, where his father was a pianist, organist and teacher, and a composer in a small way. The Richters were of combined Polish and German father fell victim to one of the extraction, and soon after the Stalinist purges and his mothboy's hirth they moved to er sought refuge in Germany, acutely sensitive to the hori-

Odessa, a city where other musical reputations of distinction were fostered, including that of David Oistrakh, and where Igor Oistrakh, Emil Gilels and Nathan Milstein were all born, and later studied. Having absorbed the rudiments of music from his father, Richter was largely self-taught at the piano, except for some lessons from one of his father's pupils, and

quickly showed unusual early

facility in keyboard technique. Although never a child prodigy in the accepted sense, Richter began to compose at the age of eight, and reportedly wrote an opera before his teen years. He certainly became adept at playing from orchestral scores, which took him, in 1930, when he was 15, to the Odessa Opera as a répétiteur. A few years later, in 1934, he gave his first solo recital, and the experience was so successful and pleasing to him that he aban-doned thoughts of conducting to concentrate on a pianistic career. To that end he took him-

teacher Heinrich Neuhaus. Neuhaus found his new pupil "already a complete artist", with the ability to huild a piece "so that it seemed to lie before him like an immense landscape, revealed to the eye at a single glance". This visionary sense of what was comprised in a complete music work pervaded all his later performances, from the time he gave his first Prokofiev premiere while still a student. Shortly before that, his

self to the Moscow Conserva-

toire as a student of the famous

she was flown to New York for his début there nearly 20 years

not to see her son again until

Richter's early appearances were confined by the authorities to the former Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc, whence occasional Western visitors who were fortunate to catch one of his concerts brought back travellers' tales of his exceptional talent. These tales were reinforced by an early recording of Schumann which circulated in the West. Richter was consequently already something of a legend by the time he came himself to the West in 1960, first to Heisinki, Chicago and New

York, and the next year to

sold-out houses at the Royal

Festival Hall in London. Here his début programme was typically uncompromising, beginning with a small Haydn sonata, but with the rest entirely devoted to Prokofiev, including the encores. In that year Richter published in Moscow a book of reminiscences of Prokofiev. whose entire piano works he had committed to memory and whom he continued to

champion persistently. Richter also became admired for his playing of Chopin and Schubert, whose duet music he played, with Benjamin Britten as his partner, at the Aldeburgh Festival in 1965. Preferring the ambience of smaller festivals like this, he began the previous year an association with the Fêtes Musicales at Grange de Meslay, near Tours in France.

A fastidious, not to say per-nickety performer, he was

zontal plane of the keyboard, sometimes requiring it to be checked with a spirit level, especially in a recording studio. He liked to record at night, from about nine o'clock until he was tired, usually around three in the morning, so as to have no distraction from meal breaks. He preferred to make long "takes" of complete movements or sections, going right back to the beginning if something displeased him. We now have a legacy of over 130 CDs by him in the current lists to testify to the pow-

When he returned to London in 1989 after a 12-year absence, it was noted that he played from music in front of him illuminated by a single lamp he op-erated himself. Three years later, he took space in the printed programme to explain his reasons, dismissing memo-ry playing as "a childish and vain feat", and saying of the ab-sence of platform lighting, "We are living in an age of voyeurs and nothing is more fatal for

of artistry.

He enjoyed chamber-music playing as a pianist with the Borodin Quartet and others, and accompanied distinguished singers including Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, as well as his own wife, Nina Dorliak, a professor at the Moscow Conservatoire.

Noël Goodwin

Sviatoslav Teofilovich Richter, pianist: born Zhitomir, Ukraine 20 March 1915; married 1946 Nina Dorliak; died Moscow 1



Photograph: Camera Press

# **Bao Dai**

Annam was regarded as an exotic hackwater in French Indo-China when Bao Dai, who has just died in Paris, ascended the imperial throne in Hue in 1925. Little could he have imagined at the time that within a few years, his country, together with the rest of Vietnam, was to become engulfed in a long series of wars. He was just a boy of 12 who had been sumdaughters. moned home from school in France to perform the many elaborate rites which accompanied the installation of an

Emperor of Annam. On the advice of his French mentors, Bao Dai (the title, meaning "Keeper of Greatness", was given to him on his enthronement) then returned to Paris to complete his education. Apart from the usual academtennis, bow to drive a car and play poker. These pursuits were later to earn him the reputation of being a playboy monarch. Yet the life style to which the French had introduced him differed little from that of other fashionable young men of noble birth during the 1920s and 1930s. Indeed he was proud of being the first Emperor of the Nguyen dynasty which had ruled Annam since 1802, to have a modern upbringing instead of being constricted by the ancient rites imposed by the court mandarins.

fn 1932, therefore, when at the age of 19 Bao Dai returned to his native Hué to assume his royal duties, he sought to introduce some changes to court procedure. Likewise he was eager to see some alleviation of French tutelage over his realm. These hopes proved to be largely in vain. The one small victory he did achieve was the right to choose his own wife rather than enter into an arranged marriage. His choice fell on a young Catholic girl from the

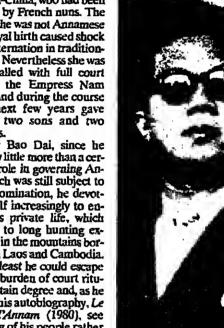
south of Vietnam, then known

as Cochin-China, who had been educated by French nuns. The fact that she was not Annamese and of royal hirth caused shock and consternation in traditional circles. Nevertheless she was duly installed with full court ritual as the Empress Nam Phuong and during the course of the next few years gave hirth to two sons and two

As for Bao Dai, since he could play little more than a ceremonial role in governing Annam, which was still subject to French domination, he devoted himself increasingly to en-joying his private life, which extended to long hunting expeditions in the mountains bordering on Laos and Cambodia. There at least he could escape from the burden of court ritustated in his autobiography, Le Dragon d'Annam (1980), see something of his people rather than rows of backs bent in full

The outhreak of war in the Pacific in 1941 brought few changes to life in Annam. Unlike the rest of South East Asia where the Japanese brought an end to colonial rule and interned all Europeans, in Indo-China they concluded an agreement with the French to continue administering the territory on condition that Japan would be allowed to station some troops there. As the war progressed this Japanese presence attracted some Allied bombing raids hut not in Annam where there were no targets of any significance. Bao Dai was therefore able to continue

his life undisturbed until March By then Paris had been liberated and the French in Indo-China realising that they were likely to be hranded as traitors for having collaborated with the Japanese, began making preparations to welcome an Allied in-



Bao Dai: 'I would rather five as an ordinary citizen of an independent country than be Emperor of a nation of slaves'

vasion force. This prompted the Japanese to stage a military coup to oust the French administration throughout Indo-China, including Annam.

Bao Dai was all the more astonished when on 10 March 1945, a Japanese diplomat paid an official call upon him at the imperial palace in Hué with an invitation for him to proclaim independence for the whole of Vietnam, albeit with a proviso that the country maintain good relations with Tokyo.

A royal edict to this effect was

issued the following day. The Emperor then proceeded to invite prominent dignitaries from all over Vietnam to form its first independent government. But other Vietnamese had different ideas about the country's future. In 1941, the Communist Par-

ty under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh and keeping its identity well concealed had launched a movement calling itself the Viet Minh, appealing to all Vietnamese to struggle for the liberation of their country from both Japanese and French domination. This movement was largely confined to the northern mountains bordering China until March 1945, when the French a was ousted and its troops disarmed by the Japanese. Seizing this opportunity, Viet Minh guerrillas began moving south and spreading their network of contacts throughout the country.

These moves were scarcely under way when Japan suddenly announced its surrender to the Allied powers on 15 August. This prompted the Viet Minh to stage an uprising in Hanoi and send envoys to Hue to demand that the Emperor abdicate in favour of Ho Chi Minh as President of a new state called the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. In the circumstances, although he knew little about the Viet Minh, or for that matter, Ho Chi Minh. Bao Dai felt he had no option but to comply. Accordingly he issued a statement announcing his abdication on 25 August. It included his most famous

words: "I would rather live as an ordinary citizen of an independent country than be Emperor of a nation of slaves." Afterwards the ex-Emperor, reverting to the name of Vinh disbanded. He also presided

Thuy which he was given at birth, made his way to Hanoi at the invitation of Ho Chi Minh to become a special adviser to the new republic. He was accorded a courteous welcome but found his duties less than onerous until in early 1946 he was assigned to head an official mission to Chungking,

President Chiang Kai-shek. Realising this was a pretext to get him out of Vietnam, Bao Dai declined to return and retired to live in Hong Kong. There he watched from afar as the French returned to Vietnam, tried to reach an agreement with Ho Chi Minh and, when these efforts failed, embarked on full-scale war. He then began to receive feelers from various Vietnamese politicians opposed to the Viet Minh as well as from the French about heading a new State of Vietnam.

then the capital of China under

Since Bao Dai had no wish to be seen as a French puppet, these negotiations were very protracted. In June 1948 he agreed to be flown in a French scaplane to a warship anchored in the picturesque Gulf of Ha Long in northern Vietnam to witness the signing of a docu-ment whereby France conceded a measure of independence. He then went on to Paris for further discussions which eventually culminated on 8 March 1949 at the Elysée Palace, where a series of agreements were concluded, leading to the establishment of the State of Vietnam headed by Bao Dai, although no longer as an Emperor with special royal

privileges. To symbolise his new authority, he immediately flew back to Vietnam to tour the country from Saigon to Hanoi including of course a visit to Hué, his former imperial capital, where the court had been over the establishment of a new government with ministers from all over Vietnam as well as holding discussions with French generals who were still battling against the Viet Minh, about setting up a Vietnamese National Army 10 join in the

Bao Dai then had the satisfaction of seeing the State of Vietnam being accorded diplomatic recognition as an independent country by the Western powers at the end of 1949. A couple of months later, however. Ho Chi Minh, who had been living as a guerrilla in the northern mountains, made a secret visit to Peking and Moscow where he managed to secure Chinese and Soviet recognition for the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. That set the scene for the next si the war.

During the next four years. Bao Dai chose to spend most of his time in France where his children were being educated and where too be could keep a closer eye on the developing international situation. When he did visit Vietnam, it was usually to stay at his villa in the mountain resort of Dalat from where he could once more engage in his favourite sport of hunting.

Meanwhile, with Chinese military aid the Viet Minh were building up their strength in the north of the country. The climax came in May 1954 when after a 57-day siege the Viet Minh succeeded in overwhelming the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu. Fortuitously this occurred on the eve of the opening of a major international conference in Geneva on the future of Indo-China at which Bao Dai played only a backstage role. It resulted amongst other things in an agreement for France to withdraw totally from Indo-China and for Vietnam to be temporarily partitioned hetween the State of Vietnam in the

south and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the north. At the same time Bao Dai was persuaded, largely as a result of American pressure be-

hind the scenes that the best person to head a strongly anti-Communist government in Saigon was Ngo Dinh Diem, a former mandarin from the court in Hue. That did not endear him to the former Emperor. The feeling was mutual. In 1955, Ngo Dinh Diem staged a referendum throughout the State of Vietnam to decide whether it should become a republic with himself as President. With Bao Dai absent in France and refusing to campaign, the result was unsurprisingly in the affirmative.

That marked the end of Bao Dai's official career. Since 1955, although he undoubtedly followed developments in Vietnam closely, he rarely commented on them. Nor did he live as a rich foreign exile. The villa which he occupied in Cannes during the early 1950s was the property of the State of Vietnam. Instead, until his death, he lived in a modest flat in Paris on a French state pension with the occasional donation from Vietnamese living abroad to finance

a few foreign trips. Some members of the extended Annamese royal family were hoping that he would emulate the example of King Sihanouk of Cambodia and try to regain his throne. Bao Dai was however a very different character and his direct heirs appear to be content with their life in Western Europe.

Judy Stowe

Nguyen Vinh Thuy: born Hue. Annam 22 October 1913; succeeded 1925 as Emperor of Annam, taking the title Bao Dai, abdicated 1945; married 1933 Marie-Therese Nguyen Huu Hao (died 1963; two sons, two daughters); died Paris 31 July 1997. | Zcaland 31 July 1997.

# Sir Hepi Heuheu

Sir Hepi to Heuneu was the last paramount chief of a Maori tribe and his mana and standing ranked with that of the Maori Queen, Dame Te Atairangikaahu. He could have been in the line of succession to be the Maori King, but his great-greatgrandfather, who was a prime candidate to be the first holder of that position, declined to challenge, instead rallying his Tuwharetoa people behind the Waikato chief Potautan Te Wherowhero, establishing regal succession with the Tainui tribe.

One of the most influential figures in Maoridom, which has long been handicapped by jealousies and rivalries between the tribes, te Hehen transcended tribal boundaries and was respected by Maoris and pakeha (Europeans) from all walks of life. Known as "The Mountain", he was one of the few leaders whose words and dignity held sway throughout Maoridom, commanding respect from fellow tribal aristocrats and militant radicals alike.

He was largely responsible for creating the Maori Congress, a pan-tribal body set up to provide a single voice on Maori issues. In 1984, he acted as a mediator between leaders of an angry march by protesters about Maori land claims and the Governor-General. To Heuheu won the Governor-General's agreement to meet a deputation of the marchers, but police, concerned about the Governor-General's security, refused to allow the meeting to take place.

Knighted in 1979, te Heuhen was trusted and honoured by successive governments, even though, unlike some fellow Maori leaders, he declined allegiance to any political party.
Maoris saw his independent
stance as being in the tradition
of his ancestor, te Heuheu Tukino II, who refused to sign the Treaty of Waitangi, in which Maori chiefs ceded sovereign-

ty to Queen Victoria in 1840. All New Zealanders witnessed the power of his mana in 1994 when he quietly declined the Prime Minister's invitation to Maori leaders to attend a meeting to launch the so-called fiscal envelope" policy under which the government proposed to put aside a maximum of NZ\$1bn to settle all Maori claims for the return of, or compensation for, confiscated land. His refusal was seen as a direct rejection of the controversial policy by all Maoris. The following year, he called a meeting to discuss the policy which attracted more than 1,000 Maori epresentatives from all tribes.

He spent his early life as a bushman before farming family land near Taumarunui in the central North Island. He was only 24 when he assumed the mantle of paramount chief of the Ngati Tuwharetoa tribe from his father, his first chiefly task being to lead tribal members to Wellington to welcome home soldiers returning from Second World War service.

He served as chairman of numerous Maori trusts and was a member of the Tongariro National Park Board, the country's first national park established on land gifted to the nation by his great-grandfather in 1887. An ardent advocate of racial

harmony, he deplored the failure of Europeans and Maoris to settle their differences and reportedly said "We must keep talking" on his deathbed.

# David Barber

Hepi Hoani te Heuheu: born 1919: Paramount chief, Ngati Tuwharetoa tribe 1953-97; KBE 1979; married Pauline Hinepoto (six children); died Taupo, New

# Jeanne Calment



She was born a year before the Battle of the Little Bighorn and lived to be a star (perhaps unwittingly) of rap music and the Internet. The death vesterday in Aries of Jeanne Calment, at the age of 122, deprived humanity of its oldest known member.

She had lived in Arles all her life and had met, as a young woman, an obscure painter called Vincent Van Gogh (before he lost his ear). He was, she recalled in one of her many media interviews of recent years, "as ugly as a louse" and "he stank". Calment remained mentally

acute, even playful, almost to the end. "I only ever had one wrinkle and I'm sitting on it," she once said. The one thing she never seemed able to explain satisfactorily was why she lived so long, outliving her husband by more than half a century and even, tragically, her only grandson by 34 years. She put her longevity down to a large consumption of olive oil, hut that explanation never seemed to satisfy her increasingly large number of media admirers. It was only in 1995, at the age of

her doctor to give up smoking and her Sunday glass of port. In recent years Calment became a public property to a degree that was disturbing, although it never seemed to worry her. "One hundred and twenty-two years? Can anyone beat that?" she asked a reporter from Le Figuro at her last birthday in February.

Last year she was made the star of a four-track compact disc. Time's Mistress, in which she told the story of her life over a musical background ranging 120, that she was persuaded by from rap to farandole. She was

shown (allegedly) how to work a computer and helped to set up her own website on the Internet. It was these unlikely events which prompted a regional court to place her under its guardianship to protect her from the problems that fame can bring

Jeanne Calment spent the first 115 or so years of her life in almost complete obscurity and, by her own account, contentment. She was born into a well-off family in Arles on 21 February 1875. She was married at the age of 21 to a cousin, Fer-

daughter and a grandson, who died in a road accident in 1963. Until 1985 - when she was 110 - Calment lived alone, look-

ing after herself, in her apartment in the centre of Arles. In 1965, a local lawyer purchased her home (she was then 90) on the understanding that it would remain hers for life. The price was 2,500 francs a month until she died. The lawyer himself died

two years ago, aged 77. She was recognised in 1993 by the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest member of the hu-

nand Calment. They had one man race who could properly authenticate her hirthdate. In October 1995, she became the oldest person ever recorded.

At her last birthday in February, Jeanne Calment, by then blind and almost deaf, was asked if she wanted to go on until the end of the century. "No, I've had enough," she replied. John Lichfield

Jeanne Louise Calment: born Arles, France 21 February 1875; married 1896 Fernand Calment (died 1942; one daughter deceased); died Arles 4 August 1997



... and in the 1890s

BIRTHS

COOLE-PANZA: On I August in Cal-ifornia to Sara and John a daughtex, Isabelle Melia. Deo gratias.

MUIR: Alec Andrew, CBE QPM DL, on f August, aged 87. Former Chief Constable of Durham, hasband of Helen du Parcq (deceased). Family funeral. Memorial service will

Announcements for Gazette BIRTRS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Birtha, Adop-tions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial ser-vices, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) abould be sent in writing to

## Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SDL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 [24 hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or fanel to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing (or faced) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a

### Birthdays Professor Neil Armstrong, the first

man on the Moon, 67; Dr Duane Arnold, Principal, St Chad's College, Durham, 44; Mr Billy Bingham, football manager, 66; Sir Michael Drury, Emeritus Professor of General Practice, Birmingham University 71; Miss Barbara Flynn, actress, 49; Miss Joan Hickson, actress, 91; Lord Hindlip, chairman, Christie's International, 57; Mr Alan Howard, actor, 60; Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Constable of the Tower of London, 62; Mr Richard Jewson, former chairman, Meyer International, 53;

Sir Michael Kerry, former Procura-tor General, 74; Sir Bert Millichip, Life Vice-President, the Football Association, 83, Mr John Monks. general secretary, TUC, 52; Mr Tur-lough O'Donnell, former Lord of Appeal, Northern Ireland, 73; Mr Rodney Pattison, yachtsman, 54; Mr Keith Pearson, Headmaster, George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, 56; Sir Eric Pountain, chairman, James Beattle, 64; The Hon Miriam Rothschild, zoologist and entomologist, 89; Sir Nicholas Scott, former MP, 64; Lord Sefton of Garston, former

chairman, North West Economic

Planning Council, 82; Mr Peter

Smith, chairman, Coopers and Lybrand, 51; Mr John Spellar MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Defence, 50; Mr Jinmy Webb, songwriter, 51; Mr John Whitaker,

## Anniversaries

Births: Alexander William Kinglake, historian and traveller, 1809; Charles-Louis Ambroise Thomas, composer, 1811; Edward John Eyre, administrator and explorer of Australia, 1815; Henri-René Albert-Guy de Maupassant author, 1850; Conrad

1889; Harold Holt, Australian prime minister, 1908; Robert Taylor (Spangler Arlington Brugh), actor, 1911. Deaths: Louis III, King of France, 882; Thomas Newcomen, inventor and engineer, 1729; James Gibbs, architect, 1754; Lord Frederick North, second Earl of Guilford, statesman. 1792; Alexis-Benoit Soyer, master cook and writer, 1858; William Henry Giles Kingston, author of boys' books, 1880; Thomas Henry Wyatt, architect, 1880; Friedrich Engels, political writer, 1895; Philip William

Phil May, caricaturist, 1903:

George Butterworth, composer,

1916; Catherine "Skittles" Walters,

er), music-hall artiste and male impersonator, 1952; Marilya Monroc (Norma Jean Mortenson), film actress, 1962: Richard Burton (Richard Walter Jenkins), actor, 1984. On this day: Sir William Wallace, leader of the Scots, was captured by the English, 1305; polygamy was abolished in Turkey, 1924; the British transatlantic airmail service was started. 1939; the musical Salad Days was first produced, Loodon 1954; the European Monetary Agreement was signed, 1955. Today is the Feast Day of St Abel, Saints Addai and Mari St Afra and St Nonna.

courtesan, 1920; Ella Shields (Busch-

## Lectures

National Callery: Jacqueline Ansell Babies (1): Rubens's The Judgement of Paris", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Arms

Contadini, The Art of Calligraphy in the Decorative Arts of the Islamc World", 2.30pm. British Museum Barbara Brend, "Islamic Architecture in Cairo", 1.15pm.

Changing of the Guard
The King's Troop Royal Horse Arabo
Oucca's Jie Guard of Racon Guards.

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# Sir Hepi Heuheu Service House State

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Section 1

# 79/X Sec

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SI BUT THE INDEPENDEN

# High stakes in Korea, and rewards to match

he Hermit Kingdom" is the convenient cliché for North hility has once more raised fears of conflict on the peninsula, as a dying regime Korea, the last remaining cluntry in the world where undiluted Salinism still reigns. It implies a distat, mysterious place that hides itself avay from the world - and perhaps isn't of nuch consequence for the rest of the wold. It may be a secret and secretive plee, but the crumbling of this Cold enclave is of enormous

importance. Ve know a little – a very little – about what is going on in North Korea. Weknow that there is famine, because sucessive harvests have failed. Two year of floods were followed by a year of cought. Doctrinaire mismanugemer had already created an econone disaster; now there is a humanitarin catastrophe as well. People are staring to death, probably in large numers. The only reason that this has not aoused more interest is that telcvision cameras are not thick on the ground in North Korea. It is a reclusive, uthoritarian state, and so the scale of the crisis is hard to judge. Westen journalists are not, officially, allowed in, though they do sneak in from tme to time.

We lso know that, after the death of the bng-time dictator Kim Il-Sung. there i political instability. The transition to Kim Jong-II, his son, is slowly proceeding, but in the interim there are fodications that all is not well. Instalashes out. There are two millium men under arms on either side of the demilitarised zone that divides North and South; it is a place where war has been an ever-present possibility for four decades.

The good news is that talks start today which could lead to a peace treaty that would at last end the enmity between the two Koreas, and replace the fragile ceasefire that has existed since 1953. The bad news is that we know very little about the intentions and capabilities of North Korea, a state more isolated than any other in the world.

We have more at stake in this than you might imagine. British soldiers fought and died for Korea 40 years ago; if there were to be another war there, then it is more than likely that Britain would again offer troops. The reason is simple. South Korea, the capitalist and democratic part of the peninsula, is of critical importance for the West as a trading partner, investor, and strategic ally in the region. We have a lot tied up in Korea.

The fact that Korea is not understood, not known in Britain should be a source of regret. It is 200 years since the first contacts between Britain and the Koreans, and both sides are celebrating it this year through cultural events and exhibitions. These have



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made little public impact, partly because people think of the Koreans as a rather strange and distant nation, very alien from our own culture. In fact, the Koreans are a rather jolly bunch, and it is a shame that more people do not know that. Perhaps most importantly, we do a lot of business with South Korea: British firms have recorded huge export growth there over the past few years, and businesses like Hyundai, Dacwoo, Samsung and LG (Lucky Goldstar) have brought jobs and investment to every part of Britain.

Historically, it has been a reclusive

nation, afraid that ontside influence would destroy it. It has had to learn, over the centuries, to survive, caught between China and Japan. Occupation by Japan was ended only by the war, which was immediately followed by the civil war that left it divided into warring camps. Rapid growth in the South has transformed it into one of the world's largest and richest economies; stagnation in the North has turned it into one of the world's worst basket cases. The resolution of this strange national dialectic could lead to war, it could, at last, heal the division of the

South Korea, but the fragile peace in East Asia. It would draw in America, China, Japan, and perhaps Russia as well. North Korea may be an economic disaster but it is well armed, and probably has access to at least one nuclear device as well as chemical and biological weapons.

But a lasting settlement in the Korean peninsula also has implications. It may well mean that South Korea draws yet closer to China, and perhaps further away from the US, which has had troops in the South since 1953. It could, eventually, lead to the re-emergence of a united Korea, something that would have implications for Asia similar to those of a united Germany for Europe - a redrawing of the Cold War map.

That is years away. What we can bope for, at the moment, is an easing of tensions; and some help for those in North Korea who have suffered under one of the world's harshest tyrannies. Right now, Britain's position ought to be very clear: we have a powerful selfinterest, as well as a humanitarian interest, in ensuring that the Korean peninsula remains relatively stable, while moving towards a peaceful resolution of the half-century division that has so badly hurt the population of the North. We cannot and should not do this by force of arms, or indeed any force; but we can do it by showing that of such a long and rich life.

Conflict would threaten not just we are willing and able to help the population of the North, and that its interest lies in opening up to that aid, both culturally and economically. Long task, you might say - hut very high reward, if we get it right.

# 97 reasons to be cheerful

The Independent has long kept a certain distance in reporting the trivia of royal life, whether it be the shooting skill of the heir to the throne, or the morals of one or another of Her Majesty's children or children-in-law. All these are, in the end, passing fancies, which, though they are of enormous significance in the lives of the people involved, make little or no difference to you, or to us.

But it is hard to let pass without any comment at all the arrival of The Queen Mother at the fine age of 97. Living to such an age as a cheerfully fulfilled human being - nay, merely compos mentis - is a wonderful achievemeot, to be celebrated regardless of social status. Yesterday died, in France. the oldest person in the world, aged past 120. The rest of us can only look on in envy, and admire the attainment

# • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

# Stress did not cause Gulf war illnesses

ir: Gulf war il nesses, of which here are many have not been plamed on "everything from flea collars to sheerdip", as Elaine Showalter assens ("Gulf War Syndrome: all in the mind's eye", 2 August). The chemicals used in such products have, bowever, been implicated in some of the many illnesses reported by Gulf war service and civilian personnel.

Governments and their scientific advisors worldwide have ofteo accidentally or deliberately suppressed information or misled victims and their families about occupational disease recognition, diagnosis and exposure facts. This has been particularly the case for occupational hazards faced by military personnel. The evidence we have already about the Gulf war indicates what can at best be described as past government "errors" about what chemicals military personnel used or were exposed to, whether they were monitored effectively and

appropriately and far how lang.

There is plenty of evidence

showing that a range of

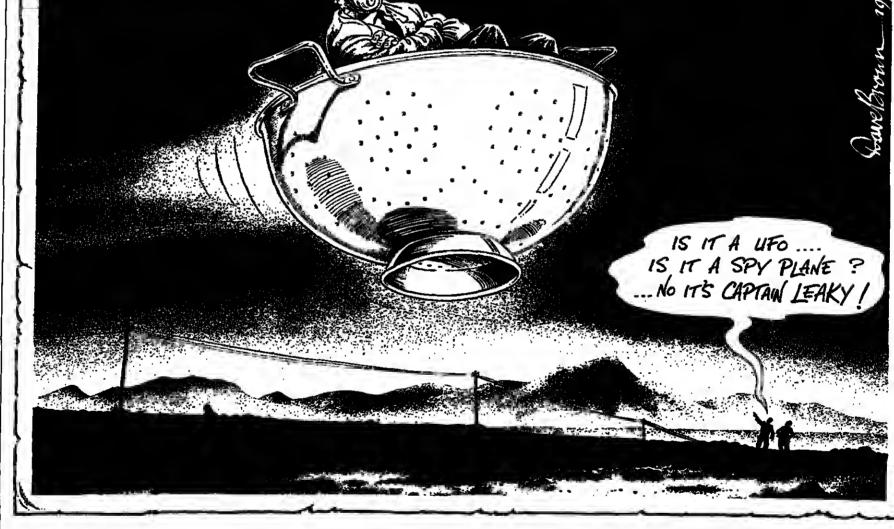
organophosphates cause neurological damage. There is some evidence too that these OPs can cause both neuropsychological and neuropsychiatric damage, ometimes at low levels. There is good evidence that certain OPs nay be more damaging if mixed ogether or with some prophylactic rugs than on their own. In occupational health, one nee-jerk official response to any eport of illnesses due to chemical xposures has sometimes been that orkers are "stressed" or hysterical nd that the problem is sychological and not physical; ence the cases cannot be the fault of employers or governments who egulate such chemicals. It is trange to see this thesis now merging as a catch-all explanation or many of the illnesses attributed Gulf war veterans.
| Some of the Gulf war veterans nay well be experiencing such cress. To suggest that this explains ne symptoms of all or most of the eterans ignores much evidence rom occupational hygiene, oxicology, occupational health and safety and epidemiology. It may well however, prove an easy and neat excuse for those governments wanting to avoid explaining what did happen in the Gulf and why many people serving there reported symptoms consistent with chemical poisonings. Professor ANDREW WATTERSON Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health

## A new system for police complaints

De Montfort University

Leicester

Sir. Your report that the Police Federation has written to the Home Secretary suggesting the introduction of an independent system to investigate police complaints ("Police call for new corruptioo body", 4 August) is very welcome. The federation bas been saying for many years that if people are unhappy with the system of the police investigating police then it would not be opposed to change. Liberty bas also been pressing for an independent system for many years and the increasing scepticism of members of the public suggests that now is the time to change it.



Whilst the Police Complaints Authority does provide an independent element, the actual investigation of complaints by police officers, often from the same force, can no longer claim widespread support. The increasing numbers of people whn gnore the complaints system in favour of taking their cases through the civil courts is evidence of this dissatisfaction.

Civil actions against the police are preferred because the complainant is a real party to the process, legal aid is available to pay for representation by lawyers, the police are under a duty to disclose all the evidence and documents, and the issues are raised in a public trial where officers are asked to justify their decisions. What is also important is that in many cases the issues of fact and the awards of damages have to be resolved by juries. Of course civil actions increasingly often lead to payments of damages whereas complaints only lead to officers being disciplined.

Civil actions against the police do oot of course provide an adequate remedy for those who are oot poor enough to qualify for legal aid nor for those who were "only" subject to a minor assault or who were "only" unlawfully detained for a short period. Civil action is not therefore a substitute for a proper complaints system. Nevertheless any new system, apart from being independent, would have to ensure a full role for the complainant. proper disclosure and be open and transpareot. We have a long way to go before the current complaints system meets these principles but the first steps need to be taken now. JOHN WADHAM Director, Liberty London SE1

## Tough action on animal cruelty

Sir: I fail to understand how postponing the revocation of Huntingdon Life Sciences' licence until November ("Huntingdon may lose its licence", 25 July) solves the problem of the large number of animals on site.

The cruelty which has been exposed at Huntingdon Life Sciences is oot an isolated incident hut, as has been proved time and time again by undercover investigations carried out by animal rights groups, is common to very many, if not all, animal testing laboratories. The spectacle of Huntingdon's more prestigious clients falling over themselves to dissociate themselves from this latest and very public disclosure is nauseous to say the least. Likewise that of the Home Office, whose behaviour prior to the exposure is yet more evideoce against the validity of its inspection system.

To scold Huntiogdoo is not sufficient, even such public scolding as has been taking place. In order that we can begin to have faith in this government's proposed review of the Animals (SR) Act (at present little more thao a vivisectionists' charter), Huntingdoo Life Sciences' liceoce must be revoked immediately and permanently, all those implicated in the wrongdoings, including senior staff and Home Office officials, must be prosecuted and Dr David international colleagues and with support after the funeral (where

Christopher, Huntingdon's research director, must be forced to resign from the Animal Procedures Committee. ROSALIND FISHER London SE15

## The best measure of inflation

Sir: Your article " 'Inflation overstated finding could ease rates pressure (Business and City, 29 July) misrepresents our position. The Boskin Report raised an

new issues; it simply gave a select range of issues greater prominence. Statisticians worldwide, and at ONS, have been studying these and other complex problems associated with consumer price indices for many years. Our view, on past work, is that the RPI at present remains the most accurate single measure of consumer inflation in the UK. It is produced using the best available methodology following advice of an independent RPI advisory

committee. What we are confident about is that many of the issues raised in the Boskin Report for the US do not have the same force in the UK. Nevertheless, along with many other countries, we are undertaking additional research and analysis to investigate further the issues raised.

The RPI is extremely important and it is essential that our research work is shared with

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edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

experts in this country so that we can assure ourselves that it is well based. The ONS paper referred to in your article was a discussion document containing preliminary views from one statistician on some aspects of the work

programme.

When this work is complete and has been tested against parallel international research we will be in a better position to form a view about whether or not the RPI is biased. We would consult widely on such an important issue.

TIM HOLT Director, Registrar General and Head of the Government Statistical Service Office for National Statistics

## Exchanging old rituals for new

Sir: Given time, clergy devote much care and thought in constructing fuoeral services but the task becomes more difficult as oumbers increase (Letters, 1 August). The more the oumbers of requests for non-religious funerals multiply, the more difficult it will become for their conductors, too, to avoid falling back upon routines.

Clergy generally have a regular two or three funerals to cooduct each week, round the year (just do the arithmetic). Remaining fresh under such a sustained demand and providing continuing it is asked for) as the numbers accumulate, stretches personal resources. If demands upon them increase, non-religious conductors, 100, will scarcely avoid a similar trial.

Clergy spend much time before a funeral sounding aut what rituals mourners in all their variety have already in mind and are going to he relying on, so as to be able to supply them. The more common non-religious funerals should become, the more one would expect to see patterns of words and actions emerging - fresh, maybe, conceivably totally nontraditional - but these would, in effect, be new rituals. Indeed, anthologies of "non-ritualistic" ideas for funerals are already published (and very helpful some of them are) but what are these but new rituals in the process of formation? The Rev MICHAEL ATKINSON

# Commercial radio at the BBC

Ilkley, West Yorkshire

Sir: While Radio 3's as well as Radio 4's innovations are under the spotlight, may I ask why practically every item on the "On Air" programme nowadays bas to be preceded or followed by a BBC commercial?

Commercial broadcasters of classical music (or of what passes for it these days) at least refrain from such cootinuous, blatant and, if one regular listener's reaction is anything to go by ultimately self-defeating, selfadvertisement. WALTER GREY London N3

## Valuable role of **Scottish Ballet**

Sir: I would like to express my personal support for the Scottish Ballet and do most fervently hope it will be allowed to have a strong future in Scotland (Letters, 2

When I joined the Music Department of the Arts Council of Great Britain (as it then was) in 1970, almost my first task as officer responsible for dance was to make flying visits to Scotland with my then Chair of Dance, Peter Williams, to assist m an investigation by the Scottisb Arts Council (SAC) into the somewhat precarious future of Scottish Ballet, which at SAC's invitation had moved permanently to Scotland in 1969, nut was encounterme financial problems.

After some months of dehberations, we were delighted when SAC endorsed the company's future, recognising the value of the company's service, ant only in major Scottish theatres but throughout the Highlands and Islands, together with an approach to outreach work which was almost unique in its day. Throughout my service as Dance

Director (1979-89) for ACGB this company was often held up as a good role model for its very special service to Scotland while at the same time having the talent to present the major "classics" at international standard feel certain it would be a real deprivation for dance lovers in Scotland if the company were allowed to close.

As a member of the board of Birmingham Royal Ballet I was very pleased indeed to know that our production of La Fille Mal Gardée has been offered on loan to Scottish Ballel for presentation this Christmas if the company is enabled to survive. Can the Scottish Arts Council now show similar generosity of spirit in its attitude to the current negotiations and find a positive solution to the crisis? JANE NICHOLAS London W6

## Renewable energy for the Dome

Sir: I would have thought a better proposition than to clad the Millennium Dome with PVC (Letters, 4 August) would be to use a combination of aluminium and photo-voltaic cells. The former is fully recyclable and the latter fully reusable: important considerations for a structure which is likely to have a short lifetime.

The use of photo-voltaic cells in a substantial way would also enable the exhibition to have a display about renewable energy, which ought to be high on the list of priorities, given the rapidly growing importance of developing a sustainable society. CHOSMAN Aberdeen

## **British Museum:** clear the car park

Sir: I am delighted that the eyesore of car parking is to be removed from the courtyard of the Courtauld Gallery at Somerset

House (report, 28 July). Now, can we achieve the same at the British Museum? It is a disgrace that cars are allowed to clog the entrance and the space around this great building. PHILIP STOTT Gravesend, Kent

# The battle not to be left behind

Despite a shared political heritage, Tony Blair's New Labour government is very different from Lionel Jospin's new Socialist one. John Lichfield asks which is most likely to deliver on its promises

resident Chirae loves his little jokes, even in defeat. When Tony Blair went to the Elysee palace for lunch in June, the Gaullist President greeted him warmly and congratulated him on his first month in office. But he added: "You must go further, if you are going to keep up with us

It was a pleasant little joke, which worked on three levels. Mr Chirac was mocking himself, because his centre-right coalition had lost the parliamentary election two weeks before. Second, he was teasing Mr Blair, for having seamlessly and cheerily abandoned the use of the word socialist. Third, he was suggesting that the simultaneous success of the left in London and Paris, for the first time in half a century, might be an invitation to cross-channel competition, rather than brotherly understanding.

On that same day, the newly-installed Socialist Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, could find no time to see the visiting Labour Prime Minister. There was a flurry of speculation, in both the British and French press, that the two men had conceived an instant dislike for one another. The speculation (including some by the present writer) has since been dismissed by French and British officials as misplaced: Jospin and Blair, they say, get on perfectly well. Although no firm plans have yet been made, the two prime ministers hope to meet informally during their holidays this month, close to Mr Jospin's political base south of Toulouse.

it or not, whether they like each other or not, Jospin and Blair are rivals. They are rivals for the moral and actual leadership of the European centre-left; but also in a perverse way, they are

If Jospin succeeds, with a more interventionist, more demand-oriented programme than New Labour, the success will be thrown in Blair's face by Labour dissidents and Guardian leaderwriters. If Blair succeeds while preserving the market orthodoxies of the Eighties and Nineties, never

Civil Servants

quite accepted in France, his success will be seized by the French right (is already being seized) as a cudgel with which to beat "Jospinisme".

In one sense, this is inevitable. The two men are trying to answer the same question: what are left-of-centre politics for in a post-socialist world? In another sense, comparison is unfair, or misleading: the two men are sitting examinations with different questions. Britain and France are neighbouring but dissimilar countries which are at different stages in their political and economic cycles.

After the achievements, but also the excesse of 18 years of dogmatic Conservatism, Tony Blair inherited something very rare in politics: a booming economy coupled with a popular thirst for change. Unemployment is low, growth irre-pressible. So much so that his chief problem is to prevent heated domestic demand from boiling up into inflation. He has a gargantuan majority and

no organised opposition.

Lionel Jospin inherits a series of botched semireforms, stretching back over six years and three governments. The domestic economy is faltering domestic demand is falling; unemployment is still rising (up to 12.6 per cent in June). He has to cohabit with President Chirac, who can pick his opportunities to trip him up. He has a slender parliamentary majority, which includes Communists, Greens and radical socialists, who have very different ideas to his own (and to one another).

The first weeks in office - 100 days for Blair, 60 for Josoin - seem to have produced a clear victory for Blairism. The Prime Minister's popularhe has mad Government has remained disciplined and, publicly at least, united. Gordon Brown's Budget was a media and public relations triumph (even if the markets still have doubts).

Jospin, by contrast, got himself into a series of muddles over the European single currency, the Renault closure in Belgium and immigration. His ministers contradicted one another publicly. His ropularity has declined (but not much)

popularity has declined (but not unich).

Partly this can be explained functionally. Blair knew that he was going to win the election: he

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was careful to promise nothing it could not deliver. Jospin, like everyone else, thought that he was going to lose the election, which in any case came sooner than expected. The French Socialist programme was an attempt to limit the electoral lamage: no one expected to have to implement it. Up to 700,000 jobs would be created through state spending, half in state jobs. Weekly working hours would be reduced from 39 to 35 with no loss of pay. There would be no austerity promme. No tax rises. France would still meet the budget criteria for joining Economic and Mone-

6 The two men are both trying to say what left-ofcentre politics are for in

tary Union (Emu). Mr Jospin, like an escapologist throwing away the key to his chains, added a final promise: to keep all his promises.

But, two months into office, Jospin's record is far from disastrous or discreditable. The shillyshallying over whether France would make the Emu guideline of 3 per cent of GNP budget deficit this year seemed like incompetence. Some of the confusion was damaging. But look at the overall effect. It has prepared market opinion to regard a near-miss as a triumph. The stop-gap budget proposals announced last month were a fudge, if you like, but also a brilliant exercise in playing for time. The one-off taxes on the largest and most profitable businesses are broader than Gordon Brown's windfall tax on privatised utilities but little different in principle. For the time being, Jospin, with a very poor hand, has simultaneously appeased the Germans (just), the markets, the Communists, and French public opinion.

Jospin is not as immediately likable as Blair. He may not (yet) have thought so deeply about the future of the left. But he should not be dismissed lightly. He may have the one quality vital to all successful politics: luck. Jospin promised that his programme would rekindle growth; in

Despite the rise in unemployment in June, the outlook for the French economy is now the best it has been in five years. The franc has sunk by 20 per cent against the dollar and the pound in eight months. Inflation remains scarcely perceptible. Interest rates are low. Exports, aiready booming for months, have now become frantically good. According to a semi-official projection, the French economy should grow at an annual rate of 3 per cent in the second half of this year, the

same as Britain's. It may take a while for domestic demand to respond, and unemployment to fall. But any sustained increase in growth will ease Mr Jospin's task in squaring the circle of his election pledges over the next couple of years.

And here is the rub. A short-term recovery of growth would be welcome but it would do nothto solve the longer-term ills of the French economy. It may allow Mr Jospin to muddle through his five years without achieving much. On the other hand, it could give him an opportunity to be as creative as Tony Blair, in some ways more

Unlike Mr Blair and President Clinton, Mr Jospin does not follow a Thatcher or a Reagan. The US and British state sectors have shrunk in the last 20 years; in France the state has grown. One in four French people who have a job work, in some way, for the government. This may not, in itself, be as important as the corporatist attitudes in France; the aversion to risk; the lack of productive investment. The export boom is startling but it depends mostly on traditional huxury goods, subsidised farm produce, weaponry and machinery from state-controlled, or state-influenced, industries. Exports are exports are exports. But France, unlike, say Italy, remains poor at creating the kind of small or medium hi-tech and service companies which are rich in new jobs: hence, in part, the stubbornly high levels of unemployment.

The philosophical underpinning to Blairism (but also to the successful social-democratic models in the Netherlands or Denmark) is that you must create wealth before you spend it. The creation of wealth is seen as a matter for individuals and husinesses; the spending of wealth, a erism would accept, the state. Blairism, if it delivers its promises, believes in the private creation of wealth but public investment in health and education and training. It believes in public service, although not much in public ownership.

The relative clarity of this vision is possible because Thatcherism went before. France has not been through this revolution, a revolution of attitudes as much as structures. France - and not just the French left - is still persuaded that the state can create wealth or should be part of that process. hence the Socialists' promise to create more state employment and tinker with working hours. There are superficial similarities between Gordon Brown's welfare-to-work programme and Mr Jospin's new-jobs-for-youth. But the British programme is about training; the French programme about creating from thin air new state, or state-subsidised jobs.

In truth. Jospin and so sometimes think more like Blair and his team than the conventional wisdom allows. Jospin in his first speech to parliament made a distinction between public ownership and public service. It now seems inevitable that, partly for budgetary reasons, some degree of privatisation will continue, whatever his Communist junior partners in government might think. Jospin also gave notice that welfare for the middle classes may have to come to an end (aka the abolition of university grants in Britain). The quarter-completed reform of the public health service may be abandoned in favour of something much more radical, perhaps more private insurance for the relatively well-off. Again hudgetary need could lead the way. At the same time, the older thinking persists. The plan to reduce working hours is dear to the Communists. and some Socialists, and will be pursued.

Mr Jospin, in other words, is constructing Jospinisme as he goes along. If he is lucky with the economy over the next couple of years, he could re-set his own examination paper and attempt a more ambitious reform. Will he? It is not to be excluded. But he does not have the political freedom of action of New Labour. The similarities between Jospin and Blair may be greater than commentators imagine. The greatest difference, however, is in the countries they have to govern, and that is a hig difference.

could not deliver. thought he was going to lose the election: he neve expected to have to the French programme

Photograph:

# A lesson in how not to pull on the dance floor

ifferent cultures must be respected, not least because they might actually have something to teach us. Writing from a New Labour perspective, it is clear to me that arranged marriages, for instance, are probably a far better idea than we romantic Westerners have been prepared to admit. Infatuation and sexual attraction wear off. What matters (as Tony has said) is the ability to provide a stable home for the children, and - let's face it one's parents may well be better judges of long-term compatibility than one's

But sometimes it is hard to look at other civilisations with the open mind and clear eye that true tolerance requires. And so it was yesterday with me and the Turkish wedding. The celebration in question took place over the weekend in a small town close to the Iraqi border, and ended in tragedy when a hand grenade exploded in the middle of the feast. As the incident was being investigated, however, it was discovered that this

had not been - as was first

callow self. They have been

thought - an attack by Kurdish extremists, but was the consequence of a terrible accident. Apparently, a grenade worn by one of the men attending the wedding had gone off after the pin had been pulled out probably snagged on the

clothing of a passing dancer. Try as one might, it is hard to recognise the utility in a custom involving the wearing of volatile explosives at crowded functions. When you hire a harmless tuxedo for a cousin's wedding, the most offence you will cause is down to your misjudged, violently coloured waistcoat, or that nasty-looking cummerbund. Down on the Iraqi border, however, as the donkey cart awaits, Kemal is giving a final polish to his grenades. Perhaps his wife even adjusts them slightly, getting her husband to do a quick - but careful - twirl. When they arrive at the feast

he is the object of admiration. "What a fabulous outfit!" his relations all tell him. "And where did you get the grenades?" "In town. They're live, you know," he proudly informs them. "Oh!" they reply, impressed, "and now you

مكذا من الاجل



David Aaronovitch

must come on to the crowded dance floor and do some very energetic folk numbers. But mind the pin." Kemal, whichever way you look at it and whatever allowances you make for cultural idiosyncrasy, is a cretin. Or, rather, was a cretin. And any so-called civilisation that allows someone like him to play hopscotch dressed in bombs is surely deficient. Perhaps other guests arrived festooned in land-mines, or with rockets in their belts. Which, naturally, brings me

Burroughs, Burroughs, you may recall, outlived the woman he called his wife by 46 years. He pulled off this impressive trick of differential longevity by shooting her in 1951. In a flat above a bar in Mexico City - during a party - the inebriated writer produced a gun (he loved guns in his life), informed those present that he was about to repeat his famous William Tell routine, put a glass on Mrs Burroughs's head and fired. The glass remained intact

Burroughs, however, was not a cretin. He was a great writer: Edith Sitwell didn't like him, which proves it. If it was Kemal's stupidity and predisposition towards reckless violence that, predictably, killed the wedding guests, it was Burroughs's dangerous, rebellious and admirable spirit that - unfortunately killed his missus. This same awkward relativism was also apparent in some of the reporting of this week's American Indigenous Games. The Games include successful sports like football (invented by the Tolmecs), volleyball (the Aztecs),

some less well-known ones such as war canoe racing (first one to the waterfall gets to kill the Jesuit). But there is also a rather unusual, silly and slightly laughable game involving lying face down on the ground, putting all one's weight on one's knuckles and toes, and, from this bizarre position, springing forward as far as you possibly can. Pretty daft, ch? No wonder that one never caught on. "Barry, look at those superbly developed knuckles. And there he goes! Oh, it must be close to 1ft 3, a world record!"

But wait a minute. If you think that sounds mad, then imagine yourself trying to explain to a Mayan or a Seminole, the rudiments of the triple jump ("well, first you hop on one leg as far as you can, then you do one of those little coltish springs that small kids do, and finally, you ..."), or the pole vault ("take a 10ft pole, run, stick the pole in the ground, and use it to lever yourself over a high bar, falling to the ground on the other side"). Let alone synchronised

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could pay a process of the special public sector. Town Hall Employees Teachers Lecturers LIFE INSURANCE Post Office Staff 0800 147 147 - NHS Staff For your senarity, all Police PLEASE QUOTE REF: LINO508 Nurses **ZURICH**  Fire Service MUNICIPAL Prison Officers Ambulance Service

# A final snipe at the last Governor goes

THE INDEPENDENT

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guerrilla engagement in the fighthack by the anti-Patten forces inside the Foreign Office. ated strange alliances of a sort which cut directly across the drearily familiar divisions in both British Conservatism and the Foreign Office. On one side, for example, are those great China hands Lord Howe, Sir Edward Heath, and in a supporting role Michael Heseltine, hacked by a group of mandarins and ex-mandarins led by the redoubtable sinologist Sir Percy Cradock, the longest serving Joint Intelligence committee chairman under Margaret Thatcher. On the other, Chris Patten, and - more or less - Douglas Hurd, and, since 1992, Lady Thatcher her-self (whose consistent backing for Patten's

The second second second AND CONTRACTOR Charles Service Control of the Control

Percy and Lord Howe yesterday were dismissive of the row over leaks - pointing out correctly that it was a distraction from the real argument over Patten's conduct as Governor. At the heart of the dispute is the democracy question. And specifically whether Patten was right to fight successfully in 1994 for direct elec-. tions to the Legislative Council (LegCo) or whether, as the China hands claim, it merely served to infuriate the Chinese leadership and interfere with the "smooth transition" from British rule. Once upon a time we were told, with total confidence, that the "people of Hong Kong don't want democracy". That wholly untested proposition was exploded by the clear evidence that they did. So now the China hands' modified argument is that Patten's actions may have delayed the introduction of democratic elections in Hong Kong by the Chinese government. This ill-substantiated claim continues to be made. Yet Yet Patten's Gov-

a quarter of a treacle tart and haif a

loaf of date and apricot oat bread. It

would take just over four weeks I

reekoned to complete my tour

through what Daniel Defoe in the

18th century referred to as The

Whole Island of Great Britain. I like

my apricots intense and wizened so

I put them in a bowl on the window

ledge where they would get the full

sun and left them for my return.

Then I finished off everything on the

There is something about a journey

which responds to the human instinct

for tidiness. They are bits of life you

can plan for, I thought as I shuffled

through my wardrobe trying to decide

what was the minimum I would need

for three weeks on the road. I would

have to appear presentable for every-

one from a Japanese industrialist in

the former coalmining areas of the

Welsh valleys to the occupants of a hostel for the homeless in Edinburgh.

In between there would be the pros-

perous business folk of Ulster, an

extended Hindu family celebrating a

Vedic coming of age near Leicester.

the country folk attending the West-

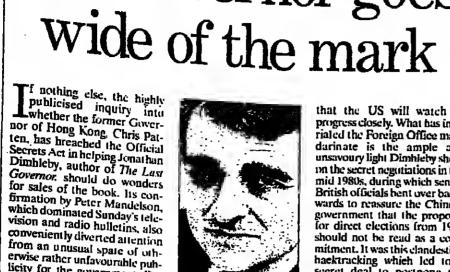
morland wrestling at Cockermouth Agricultural Show and a variety of

bed-and-breakfast landladies. The

bag also had to be light enough to

carry while walking.

table in a gargantuan tidying.



Donald Macintyre

licity for the government. But neither consequence should obscure the fact that this is

about something large and historically quite important: the fratricidal struggle within Whitehall and the very highest

reaches of the Conservative

Party to imprint on posterity

competing versions of Britain's last great retreat from empire.

Ministers could scarcely have

blocked this inquiry. But real as

it is, it's a pretty odd one. Appar-

ently sanctioned by the outgoing Permanent Secretary Sir John

Coles, it had by yesterday made no effort to interview a man who

you would have thought might

be a prime witness, namely Mr Patten himself. Secondly, there

is next to no chance of proving.

short of Mr Patten announcing

that he was in breach of the Act.

a case against him in court. After all, Dimbleby is certainly

- and rightly - not going to dis-

cuss his sources. The only con-clusion, therefore, can be that

this is little more than the latest

This is a struggle that has cre-

What has infuriated the FO mandarins is the light Dimbleby's book about Patten sheds on the secret negotiations

in the 1980s

that the US will watch its progress closely. What has infurialed the Foreign Office mandarinate is the ample and unsavoury light Dimhleby sheds on the secret negotiations in the mid 1980s, during which senior British officials bent over backwards to reassure the Chinese government that the proposal for direct elections from 1988 should not be read as a commitment. It was this clandestine haektracking which led to a secret deal to postpone the direct elections - other than for a handful of LegCo seats - provided that China committed herself to introduce direct elections some time after 1997. It was this deal which, in effect, Patten so emharrassingly "hroke" when he introduced a bill for direct elections to LegCo in 1994. Almost unbelievahly, it had survived a consultation exercise which the Hong Kong government, appar-ently under orders from the Foreign Office, quite simply gerrymandered. The result was a majority well in excess of two to one in favour of elections. But the Hong Kong govern-ment then hit on a wheeze which would have done credit to the most tinput totalitarian state. Most of the signatures against were on pre-printed forms handed out by the pro-China groups. Most of those in favour were on petitions. So the Hong Kong government simply gave the pre-printed forms more weight than the petitions and cheerily announced that the survey had gone against direct

democracy.

There is something grimly appropriate that all this should now be the subject of an Official Secrets Act enquiry. There have been dark mutterings in Whitehall that Dimbleby's book contained sensitive intelligence material. But what material? Nobody seriously believes, for example, that the British government knew only through intelligence that Peking was actively communicating with its supporters in Hong Kong. It was scarcely secret at the time. What has really angered officials about Dimhleby's book surely, is not material in it that jeopardised national security at all; most of the revelations in Dimhleby's book are of information known Governorship is not as fully acknowledged by Mr Dimbleby as it might have been). Both Sir far from friendly foreign power - but not to the British or Hong Kong people. (It would be nice to think that almost everything revealed in Dimhleby's book would be automatically available under the Government's promised Freedom of Information Act. That is far from certain; and depends in large part on how narrowly ministers draw the category of "advice to ministers" which they intend to exclude from the scope of the Act). No, it's appropriate because secrecy is a lot of what this chapter of British history is about. One of the most ringing passages of the book is the one in which diplomats like Sir Rohin MeLaren, then adviser to the Hong Kong government, recoiled from Margaret Thatcher's rather modest demand that they report the progress of negotiations leading to the 1984 Joint Declaration to the Hong Kong executive council. The current official secrets inquiry will surely soon be finished. A more fruitful follow-up might be an inquiry into what lessons might be ernorship succeeded both in nurturing demo-cratic politicians in Hong Kong, and ensuring demoducted from 1979 to 1990.

# So the UK is past its best. Want to bet?

by Andreas Whittam Smith



The good old days? One in five children in the UK now lives with a single parent and a further one in 12 lives in a step-family

conversation we all have from time to time. My friend Max said suddenly: "You know, the country is finished." He had in mind the decline in churchgoing the dissinished rate of marriage and the rise in the number of abortions, I, the perennial optimist, disagreed with Max's conclusions and wanted to frame some sort of bel - I would pay up in so many years' time if the country was truly finished, and he would reward me if it wasn't. So I have been easting about to find ways of measuring a nation's well-

A good starting place is the Human Development Index. calculated by the United Nations. The components are longevity, knowledge and income. Longevity is life expectancy at birth; knowledge rich and the poor in the UK is defined as a combination of began to widen during the adult literacy and years of 1980s. Between then and the schooling: and income is middle of the 1990s, people in income. Professor Crafts at the top 20 per cent of incomes London School of Economics has compiled the index for 25 countries, and carried the series back to 1870 for 16 of them. The UK was in second place in 1870 (after Australia and before the United States). It had slipped to fourth by 1913, ant consequences. That there was fifth in 1950, and seventh have not been until now may be in 1970. In 1992 it was 10th, one explained by the fact that behind the Netherlands and just ahead of Germany, with the first three spots occupied by Canada, Switzerland and

Taking wealth creation alone, I would adjust the standard measurement in two ways. First, account should be taken

have recently had the of hours worked for a given output, so that the amount of leisure time we enjoy is implicitly recognised. In the UK, the annual hours worked per person have fallen from just under 60 hours a week in 1870 to half that is 1972, In South Kown, on the other hand, the average working week went up from 45 hours in 1950 to 56 hours 40 years later. On this measure the UK is the 11th most productive

tral heating, and more than two-thirds own a video cassette recorder. Max was right to mention the family, but not in terms of

whether couples were marrying or cohahiting. The important test in the nort of authors in which children are being brought up. For it is beyond doubt that the outcomes are more likely to be favourable in two-parent families than in of crimes actually committed lone-parent households. It is are reported to the police -

18 in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France are twice as high as they are here.

The number of notifiable offences recorded by the police in England and Wales has increased steadily from the early 1950s, when there were fewer than half a million a year, to more than five million nowadays. And remember that only just under half the number of crimes actually committed

and 1993, but transport emissions rose by 63 per cent. During the same period, there was an increase of just over half in the average daily flow of vehicles on our roads. About a quarter of all households have two cars. If only one measure of damage done to the environment can be selected, then pollution caused by cars seems

to me to be the key test.

How can we measure political freedom? The Heritage Foundation in Washington assesses economic freedom. The Committee to Protect Journalists in New York monitors press freedom. Amnesty's reports are an invaluable source of information. A Berlin-hased organisation, Transparency International, lists countries according to was thought that the police their degree of corruption. At present, Denmark is ranked as the least corrupt and Nigeria as the world champions of sleaze. The UK generally comes out well on such criteria.

The preliminary result is that of the eight tests, the UK passes four - human development, wealth creation, education and freedom - but fails in terms of equality, family structure, crime and pollution. Thus I am not winning the bet as easily as I expected. But, of course, I

# Of the eight tests of a nation's progress, Britain passes four, but fails in terms of equality, family structure, crime and pollution

even of Japan, in 16th place.

The second adjustment conduction is simply harder to hring up children alone than with both parent contribution or because it cerus equality. After decades of experienced a rise in their earnings of 45 per cent in real terms, while those in the bottom fifth saw their incomes grow by only 9 per cent.

Inequality is repugnant in itself, and it will have unpleaspeople's circumstances change quite rapidly, so that some of those classified as poor at any one time will be able to improve their situation while others are sinking. Thus, more than half the people in the lowest 10 per cent of incomes own a car, three-quarters have cen- The participation rates at age

ents. Yet one in five children in the UK lives with a single parent and a further one in 12 lives in a step-family: an enormous change since the early 1970s, when more than nine in 10 children lived with two parents.

To the four criteria I have

already mentioned, I must add

a further fonr: education, crime, pollution and freedom. Forty years ago, 40 per cent of 17-year-old boys had the equivalent of one or more GCSE grades A to C, and only 20 per cent of girls. Since then, two good things have happened: the gender gap has disappeared and the proportion has risen to 80 per cent. At the same time, there has been a substantial increase in the number of young people engaging in higher education. But look across the English Channel.

police intervention. There was a particularly sharp rise in crime during the second half of the 1980s, hut since then, thankfully, there has been a slowing down. In measuring pollution, I would concentrate on emissions of carbon dioxide, because they do the most harm

could do nothing, or because

the matter was handled without

to the global atmosphere. Emissions for industrial and domestic use fell between 1971 remain optimistic.

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## The traveller's thoughts on setting out decided to take a chance on the apricots. Everything else that apricots. Everything else that apricots. Everything else that the dozen shirts, underwear, socks and a tiny bag of toiletries. Take risks, I told myself, and decided against a pullover or second pair of shoes. In the hope or second pair of shoes. In the hope of second pair of shoes. In the hope of second pair of strength hat said a **A JOURNEY** AROUND kitchen table in a large mound and ate it: half a carton of houmous, the remnants of a summer pudding, two of sun I took out a straw hat, said a raw carrots, a whole packet of beetroot, a pound of peas in their shells,

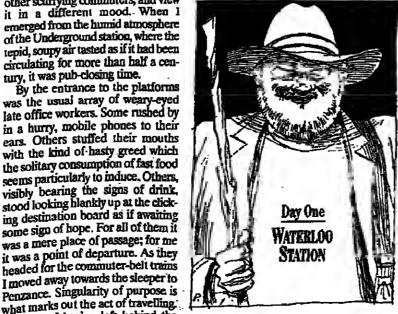
pre-emptive farewell to it on the grounds that I was certain to lose it somewhere en route and jammed it on my head. Journeys, since they begin and end at home, always start and fin-ish with the familiar. Even so, it was odd to arrive at Waterloo station, through whose vast concourse I pass every day amidst tens of thousands of other scurrying commuters, and view it in a different mood. When I emerged from the humid atmosphere of the Underground station, where the

tury, it was pub-closing time. By the entrance to the platforms was the usual array of weary-eyed late office workers. Some rushed by in a hurry, mobile phones to their ears. Others stuffed their mouths with the kind of hasty greed which the solitary consumption of fast food seems particularly to induce. Others, visibly bearing the signs of drink, stood looking hlankly up at the clicking destination board as if awaiting some sign of hope. For all of them it was a mere place of passage; for me it was a point of departure. As they headed for the commuter-belt trains I moved away towards the sleeper to Penzance. Singularity of purpose is what marks out the act of travelling. A sense of having left behind the quotidian is what characterises the accounts of those who have set out more than an act of economy. It is an on a tour of the island before. Some,

like one of the first who left a record,

to this your life must be reduced - a the pilgrim monk William of

THE WHOLE ISLAND OF GREAT BRITAIN



WITH PAUL VALLELY

Worcestre in the 1470s, hecome obsessed with the cost of the exercise gling leather-padded clothes hangers or with the trivia of topography. But and its foldaway sink in which you all in some way, in the words of William of Malmesbury who preceded his namesake in the 12th century, "hold a glass up to the nation". With some it is necessary to read

between the lines: in 1534 John Leland, the King's Antiquary, was touring to catalogue for Henry VIII the lootable manuscripts of the monasteries, and Daniel Defoe's journeys were undertaken as a secret agent to spy on the views of local worthies for his master, the Tory politician Lord Harley. With others, like George Orwell on the road to Wigan Pier, J B Priestley on his English Journey or a host of modern travelwriters, the overt intention has been to take the pulse of the nation.

Blair's Britain the social pendulum is to swing, we are told, from rights and individualism to responsibilities kering after a golden age or might such things still be possible in this pre-millennial age? And if so would this New Jerusalem be found in the play, amid prosperity or adversity? My thoughts took a more vulgar turn as I approached the train. Would I get a farter or a snorer, I wondered, berth. Past experience on sleepers had invariably offered a companion hunk above or below, for on British Surrey suburbs was about to leave. Rail sleepers the solo traveller must And even on those occasions when

occurred to me, guiltily recalling the massive clearance of houmous, raw peas and beetroot, the nocturnal nuisance might be me. But this time there was no upper herth. The top bunk was packed still inside the wall of the little cabin. With

its single bed the space took on the air of a monastic cell. Something in it prompted me to unpack my sparse belongings and set them neatly on the bed as if for a kit inspection. With the same precision I

unpacked the Great Western complementary overnight toilet bag and arranged its contents in a line: paper I resolved to do the same. In floor mat, flannel, aromatherapy goto-sleep face wipe and refreshing wake-up spray together with an angular green plastic shoe horn, comb and and community. Was this some han-toothbrush. What kind of person would come on a journey like this so ill-prepared as to need all this, I wondered to myself, and then unpacked my own toilet bags to discover the town or the country, at work or at answer was ... someone like me. I had forgotten both brush and toothpaste. I climbed into the starchy sheets, having set the thermostat to cool in anticipation of over-generous heating, as I climbed aboard and sought my and tried to sleep. Outside the unnaturally bright tones of the recorded departure announcements told me with some anti-social traits in the that the last train to my home in the

The sleeper was late in leaving. I share a compartment with a stranger. pulled another blanket around me and drifted off. At 12.57am, an bour no one climbs into the other bunk the behind schedule, I half woke at the possibility of their later arrival pregentle jolt as the train left London serves an odd public quality to the and headed West.





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MOTOR INSURANCE

# British Gas triumphs in domestic trials

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent** 

British Gas has emerged as the surprise winner from the trials of domestic competition, according to confidential industry research, which shows the company has unexpectedly kept hold of the bulk of its highest

spending customers. The survey, commissioned by the Electricity Association for published study into the first rival suppliers and seen by The Independent, shows that new entrants into the market have been most successful in persuading lower-spending house-holds to abandon British Gas, the opposite outcome to that

It provides grim reading for

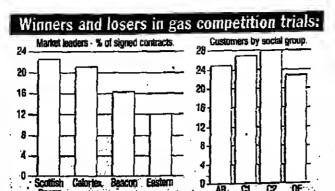
independent gas companies, which are already grappling with non-existent profit margins, because the most recent trial involves one of the UK's most affluent regions. More than 300,000 homes have so far deserted British Gas in the latest trials, which involve 1.4 million homes in Avon and Dorset and Kent and Sussex.

competition trial in Comwall, Devon and Somerset, also by the Electricity Association, revealed that more than a third of customers who switched from British Gas were overcharged, some massively so, in their last hill from the company.

have grabhed their biggest foothold in the "C2" social hracket, which make up 28 per cent of homes that have switched supplier.

In contrast, the wealthiest households in the professional and managerial "AB" segment, who generally have the biggest gas hills, have given the exper-iment a notably cooler reception, accounting for 25 per ccot of those moving to rival companies. Such customers, which provide gas suppliers with their main source of profits, could expect to make much greater savings on annual hills of at least £500.

Even the lowest "DE" social The most surprising finding category used by market re-cent. More than half of the



searchers is responsible for switchers lived in three-bed-some 23 per cent of homes roomed houses, while just 20 which have left British Gas. at-

roomed houses, while just 20 per cent owned four-hedtracted by savings of up to 25 per roomed or larger properties. Privately, rival suppliers had

hoped to grab a much larger slice of big-spending homes from Ceotrica, the demerged British Gas supply business. Though they are obliged to sell to all social groups, it would be much harder to make profits without a substantial proportion of wealthier consumers.

One independent supplier said: "Centrica must be laughing at these figures. It may not be intentional but they've managed to off-load some of their least profitable customers on to us."

The survey is likely to lead to renewed concern that profits in the domestic energy husiness are too small to encourage potential competitors like the supermarket chains or oil giants to join in. Groups such as Sains-

troleum are all thought to have rejected selling gas, disappointing the industry regulator.

Of the four largest indepen-dent gas companies, Scottish-Power has been the most successful in the latest trials, according to the Electricity Associntion, with more than 35 per cent of its customers in the AB category. ScottishPower's market share of more than 22 per cent is also the largest, closely followed by Calortex, a joint venture between Calor and Terrora But only tween Calor and Texaco. But only 15 per cent of Calonex's cus-

tomers are in the AB group. Eastern Natural Gas, owned by the regional electricity group, is some way behind in fourth place, with 12 per cent of the

bury's, Tesco and British Pe-market. Individual customers numbers have never been revealed by the regulator.

The second report, into customer satisfaction in the earliest competition trial, paints a bleak picture of widespread billing chaos, with 35 per cent of switchers claiming they were over-charged in their final British Gas bill. The research reveals that 15 per cent of consumers who switched supplier believed they were "massively" overcharged.

Some customers had hundreds of pounds accidentally debited from their bank accounts after British Gas miscalculated their final bills, a mistake blamed on faulty computer data. British Gas later apologised for the mess.

# Pearson sets out plans to double value

**Andrew Yates** 

Marjorie Scardino, the chief executive of Pearson, yesterday pledged to double the size of the media-to-entertainment con-

whose portfolio includes, the Financial Times, Penguin books, Madame Tussaud's and the investment bank Lazards, was likely to undergo a big restructuring in the near future, involving large acquisitions and disposals, to achieve this goal. We are not ruling anythiog

out. There will be a different cast of businesses that there are now but our goal remains the same. We have taken 666p as our base [Friday's closing price] and we are shooting for 1332p. Ms Scardino said vesterday. She revelaed her amhitious

plans as the group aonounced pre-tax profits of £81m (£30m) for the six months to June. But Pearson warned that if the current year.

Ms Scardino also denied press reports of a boardroom rift with Pearson TV chief Greg Dyke and indicated that the television husinesses will be part of the company's long-term future.

"Just to knock this on the head, I'd like to say that Greg and I are not having open warfare. It's just not true. Pearson Television is one of our fastest growing husinesses and we are excited about it. We are looking at how to give the TV businesses greater scale and Greg and I are doing it together." Ms Scardino said yesterday. She dismissed talk of a management huy-out of Pearson TV as "so

much hunk" dispose of its medical publishing arm, which publishes prestigious titles such as Gray's scheme to allow employees Anatomy. Analysts believe the around the world to huy shares.

turnover of £40m, could fetch £60m-£80m.

Some analysts believe that Pearson will not be able to douhle its size without making submedia-to-entertainment con-glomerate over the next five vears by achieving double dig-it earnings growth every year. She also hinted that Pearson. whose portfolio includes the tions such as Madame Tus-saud's and Alton Towers to raise extra cash for expansion. However, Ms Scardino refused to expand on which other busioesses are likely to be bought and sold. She also refused to be drawn on the fate of Lazards. Some City observers believe it sits awkwardly with the rest of the group's businesses, but Ms Scardino said Lazards produced "great profits and cashflow and involved little capital".

Pearsoo insisted that Channel 5, in which it owns a 24 per cent stake, is on track despite technical hitches which caused reception problems. The company claims that Channel 5, which began broadcasting this strong pound could knock pre- spring, has picked up new view tax profits by £20m in the ers in July and now attracts more than 3 per cent of the viewing population.

Pearsoo will have to pay more than £70m in start up costs for the Channel over the next few years. However, it plans to produce programmes for the new channel, which will bring in around £25m this year.

Pearson revealed that a fraud by one of its employees at the US division of its book publisher Penguin has already cost the group £48m. The employee was offering unauthorised discounts for the early payment of accounts. The employee has been fired and discounts withdrawn, with a resulting shortfall in receipts. Overall the group believes the fraud will cost £100m.

In an effort to make more staff Pearson confirmed plans to shareholders Ms Scardino also announced plans to introduce share option packages and a new



Financial Editor

The chairman of HSBC, Sir William Purves, poured cold water yesterday on persistent speculation that Britain's biggest financial group is poised to bid for another British bank. He said paying a premium to current market values in the high-flying sector would not be in the in-

terests of HSBC's shareholders. Speaking as the group an-nounced much better than expected interim figures for the six months to June, Sir William added: "We don't have a shopping list. We're not active in this field, we've done quite a lot this vear and we'll see that consoldate hefore we get excited

about other things. HSBC's first-half profits of £2.62bn, up 13 per cent, were well above analysts' expectations of around £2.4bn. After a higher Investment column, page 17 | than forecast 33 per cent rise in

Square, London.

i Hoall

5.91

0.66

# **HSBC** scorns speculation on bid for bank

share, the group's shares soared in early trading, touching a record high of £23.15 before closing at £22.38, up 44.5p.

Even by the standards of the banking sector, HSBC's shares have been extraordinary performers over the past five years since the group acquired Midland Bank in a bid to diversify from its traditional Hong Kong hase. Since the beginning of 1993, they have risen more

Acquisitions by HSBC in the past year have focused on expanding its interests in Latin America, where it sees strong growth potential. According to Sir William, there is no shortage of opportunities for HSBC to huy husinesses and the group

those opportunities dry up. Sir William said the handover of Hong Kong, where HSBC makes around half its profits, to China had gone smoothly. The

will only consider returning ex-

cess cash to shareholders when

group owns HoogkongBank in the former colony and also a controlling stake in Hang Seng Bank. He said Hongkong Bank's results had been hit hy a £40m underwriting loss, but declined to give any further details.

The loss pegged profits from HongkongBank back to £815m (£818m), while Hang Seng Bank's profits grew 7 per cent to £394m (£368m).

HSBC reported growth in loans especially in Hong Kong. where the property market was huoyant, and in the UK where corporate and mortgage lend-

He said that margins were un-der pressure at Midland Bank although the hank had managed a sharp fall in the cost income ratio to 56 per cent, well down on the 70 per cent ratio when it was taken over. Midland increased profits by 17 per cent

Comment, page 15 £220m due to the one-off

# BA shares fall as strike costs climb to £125m

Michael Harrison

The British Airways cabin crew strike last month cost the airline £125m, wiping out more than half the savings it expects to achieve this year from its £1bu business efficiency programme, it emerged yesterday.

BA also warned the strong pound could knock a further 200m off profits. Alongside a 28 per cent drop in operating profits for the first quarter, the news sent BA shares skidding down 50p to 610p, making them the worst performer in the FTSE 100 iodex.

The costs of the three-day stoppage in July are far higher than expected. Analysts had pencilled in losses of £40m-£100m. But BA said it was still feeling the effects of the dispute. Although no further stoppages are planned and unions and management have resumed talks oo how to achieve the £42m cost savings BA is seeking, sickness levels among the 12.000 cabin crew staff are still 50 per cent above normal levels. About 900 staff are off sick - 350 more than BA would expect at this time of year.

BA's chief executive, Bob Ayling, who was heavily criticised for the airline's tactics during the strike, would not comment on the progress in the talks hut said he was optimistic that the difficulties between the two sides could be resolved. "We can ill-afford a costly disbute of this sort. I very much hope we can win the hearts and minds of employees and customers of the need for efficiency changes which are essential for

the future." he added. BA expects benefits from the programme to exceed £200m this year and reach £1bn by the end of the decade.

Operating profits in the period from April to June were £140m compared with £195m last year. BA said that the overall impact of the strong pound had been to cut profits by £77m in the three months.

At the pre-tax level, profits were up by 47 per cent to

£130m gain from the sale of BAs stake in US Airways, its

Brow 11

former transatiantic partner. The strength of sterling contributed to a 6.3 per cent fall in operating margins and a 24 per cent decline in passenger yields - the amount earned per kilo-

Mr Ayling said that excluding the impact of the strong pound and the £15m of strike-related costs during the quarter, the underlying growth in profits was 21 per cent. However, he added: "These figures show that we were right to put in place the restructuring plan, The airline industry remains very competitive."

The plan is to remove some 5.000 staff from the payroll through the sale and outsourcing of some businesses but to

# British Airways share price, pence

recruit an equal number in areas such as customer service. Compared with a year ago BA is employing 2,200 more people, leading to a 3.8 per cent increase in employee costs to £572m. But productivity improved 6.2 per

cent in the quarter. Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, said BA still hoped to receive regulatory approval from London, Brussels and Washington for the alliance with American Airlines. It has in effect set a deadline of this November for clearance. Even if the tie-up is approved by then, it is not expected to be able to launch the alliance until next summer.

# Dial-a-Cab may take fresh route to drive for AIM

John Wilkock

FTSE 100

Central London's largest black taxi firm. Dial-a-Cah. announced yesterday that it was considering ditching its friendly society status in favour of becoming a plc and floating oo the Alternative Investment Market. The conversion and float would mean free "windfall" shares worth a minimum of £3,500 for all 1.628 member

4488.40

16379 22

Statistics as of 4 August

4408 79

FTSE All-Share 2291.97

drivers, according to Dial-a-Cah's chairman, Brian Rice.

spate of huilding society conversions to ple status had "helped to focus our minds". He said the main reason for the change would be to release value built up by drivers who had spent years working for Dial-a-Cab.

City advisers English Trust with

4964.20

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23<u>16.03</u>

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20681<u>.07</u>

<u> 16379.22</u>

STOCK MARKETS

+13.7 +0.3

<u>+20.0 +0.9</u>

+2.9 \_+0.1

+18.4 +0.8

-585.2 -2.9

+721.1 +4.6

Mr Rice said the recent

"We have approached the

our conversion proposals and they have told us that each memher would get at least £3,500 and possibly substantially more," Mr Rice said. English Trust is a firm of corporate

provident society, or a cooperative. Mr Rice said that all members have to buy one share

4056.60 3.34

4386.20 3.59

2017.90 3.40

2178,29 3.25

17303.85 0.78†

12055,17 2.73†

4438.93 2848.77 1.25†

in the society for £50 when they join, and then they sell the share back to the Society for just £50 when they leave, however long they have worked for the

7,05

6,42

7,86

25 12.9 British Blotech 152.5

76.5 11.6 National Power

advisers based in Charterhouse We have always been lookmg at ways to release value in Dial-a-Cab was founded in the society for our members. It 1953 as a friendly industrial seems to be a bit of an anomaly to get £50 back, however much profit you have built up," Mr Rice said.

INTEREST RATES

The chairman wants to put the proposals to the society's next annual general meeting in

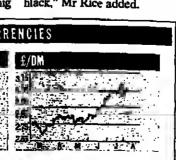
majority of members would be in favour [of conversion]," he "Giving people shares in Dial-a-Cah would also be a good way to incentivise the

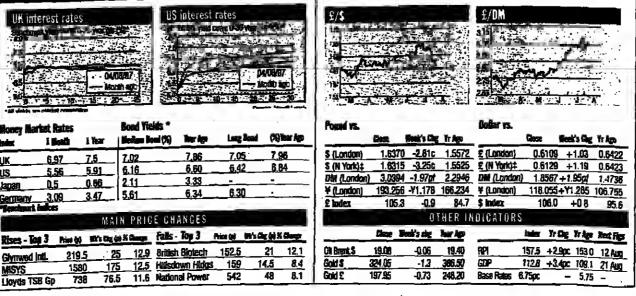
members. Earlier this year the other hig hlack," Mr Rice added.

London black-taxi firm, Computer Cab, proposed to float on AIM, but instead ended up selling an 80 per cent stake to overseas investors in Singapore "I think in the main the vast and Australia.

Dial-a-Cab made net profits of £613,000 for the year ended 31 August 1996, and is expected to make around £800,000 for

"We're reasonably in the





# Shire deal lifts biotech sector

Magnus Grimond

A \$186m (£114m) deal to buy a US drugs group unveiled by Shire Pharmaceuticals and good results from Oxford Moiecular helped the hiotechnology sector shrug off negative sentiment yesterday. Shire saw its shares end 8p

higher at 249.5p after revealing the purchase of Richwood Pharmaceutical of Kentucky, a competitor to Medeva in the market for drugs to control unruly children. Oxford Molecular's shares rose 3.5p to 248.5p after announcing losses cut by 27 per cent to £677,000 along with a move to pay £2m for an option to take control of Cambridge Combinatorial, the company run by Allan Marchington, younger brother of Oxford's chief executive, Tony Marchington.

But the sector was dragged lower carly on by British Biotech, the UK's higgest biotech company, which was hit by press reports suggesting Marimastat, the company's potential anti-cancer blockbuster, faced problems both from current medical trials and the growing likelihood of competition from rivals such as Roche.

the Swiss giant. The claims, denied by the company, sent the shares 10p lower at one stage yesterday, before bouncing back to end 5p higher at 157.5p. The Shire deal was greeted

more enthusiastically by analysts. Richwood claims to have launched the fastest growing drug in the US to treat disruptive children with so-called attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. In the space of 15 months, Adderall has swept up 5.1 per cent of a market put at \$457m in 1996. The company claims that with its other treatment. DextroStat, it has taken its overall share to 9 per cent recently, mostly at the expense of Abbott Laboratories Cylert product and Medeva's methylphenidate, the generic drug

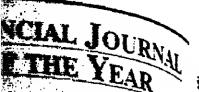
which has fuelled recent growth. Richwood says the product is longer lasting and has fewer side-effects. However, none of its drugs has patent protection and the group is facing a class action suit relating to its Phentermine obesity treatment. The US Drug Enforcement Agency must also still approve Shine as a licence holder for strictly controlled drugs sold by Richwood

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LET BY: • THE INDEPENDENT ++

The ticklish question for the HSBC

chairman is whether he can really afford to stand by and watch Midland become

marginalised as the UK banking sector consolidates'

# Sir William should consider catching this wave

First Sainshury's caught the hug, mow have the biggest economy in the world by the hanker. It is necessary says he wants to be a banker, It is necessary says he wants to be a banker, It is necessary says he wants to be a banker. It is necessary says he wants to be a banker, It is necessary says he wants to be a banker. It is necessary says he wants to be a banker, It is necessary says he wants to be a banker. It is necessary says he wants to be a banker, It is necessary says he wants to be a banker. It is necessary says he wants to be a banker, It is necessary says he wants to be a banker. It is necessary says he wants to be a banker, It is necessary says he wants to be a banker. It is necessary says he wants to be a banker of the biggest economy in the world by the banker. It is necessary says he wants to be a banker of the banke banker. It is no wonder that HSBC's chairman. Sir William Purves, is so snilfy about having another British bank - with so many scrapping for a slice of the action, the juicy returns from the sector are plainly unsus-

From his perspective at the head of one of the lew truly global commercial banks, the risks of missing out on the wave of consolidation in our mature, oversupplied and expensive banking industry must seem pretty insignificant. To understand why he is right to fread warily over here, consider the following. Start with an economy worth £1000n, grow it at 2 per cent a year for 10 years and you end up with just £122hn. Griw that same £100bn at 7 per cent a year and you end up more or less doubling it to £Pt7hn over the

The enormous power of compounding explains why HSBC's strong position in countries like China, Malaysia and India, where GDP is growing at between 5 and 10 per cent a year, is worth so much more in the long run than stakes in the economies of the US, UK and western Europe, where growth is a more pedestrian 2 to 4 per cent.

With wealth per head of population reckoned to be no more than about \$720 in China, compared to \$29,600 in the US, there is no reason to suppose recent levels of

ing the boat in Hong Kong.

The picture is actually hrighter than these bald figures might suggest. In Latin America, where HSBC has acquired a leading position in the past year for about a third as much as it would have to pay for a secondliner such as Alliance & Leicester, the proportion of the population deemed to be even hankable is as low as 2tt per cent. There is enormous scope for growth.

Accept that the hankable population in developing markets will grow faster than the economy as a whole, and throw in the propensity in a lot of Far Eastern markets for high levels of personal saving, and the nutlook for HSBC begins to justify the seven-fold increase in its share price over the past five years. That, at any rate, is the theory. The ticklish question for Sir William is whether he can really afford to stand by and watch Midland become marginalised as the UK banking sector consolidates. Faced with the creation of another Lloyds TSB retail banking giant. HSBC's strategy could take 1 sacked. a sharp temporary diversion.

## Economic council is a verbal trick

is no reason to suppose recent levels of growth should not continue for years if not decades. If current rates continue, China will decades, If current rates continue, China will decades the decades are decades to the running of economic policy, Gordon Brown has named to the decade the decades of the decade. It is extraordinary how quickly the costs the dangers inherent in that should not continue, China will be decaded to disagree with the decade of the decade. It is extraordinary how quickly the costs the dangers inherent in that should not continue, China will be decaded to disagree with the decade. It is extraordinary how quickly the costs the dangers inherent in that should not continue, China will be decaded to disagree with the decade.

year 2021, meaning it is unlikely to be rock-nomic Advisers. But the two experts, both views, as the official gloss put it. highly respected in their fields, will not be working together, as the title "Council" suggests. Rather, they will advise different teams of Treasury officials on their separate

areas of expertise. Fair enough. The Treasury has for a long time very sensibly drawn on outside talent in this way. But it means that this is a Council in name only, a verbal gimmick that will allow the Chancellor to live up to a high-falluting pre-election pledge.

The similarities with the US Council of Economic Advisors begin and end with the name. For the US version advises the President rather than his Treasury Secretary. It is an independent focus of economic advice,

semi-detached from government. It is usually composed of very high-pro-fite and independent-minded economists who can speak their owo mind if they dis agree with aspects of policy. They might not hot in the job if they were too outspoken too often, but equally they are not lightly

The American CEA actually bears a closer resemblance to the Treasury's ill-fated the economy and its future prospects. This report is taken as an authoritative assess-

Like the panel it replaces, our own new Council of Economic Advisers is clearly not meant to provide a heavyweight, cohesive commentary on the Government's economic policy in the same way as its US namesake. It is hard to resist the suspicion that, in fact, the last thing Mr Brown wants is any possibility of disagreement with his policies, especially from anybody with the status that

an established reputation brings. So all praise to the Chancellor for bringing in advisers to top up the Treasury's own extensive expertise. But he should not expect anybody to fall for the gimmickry of a fancy-sounding but empty title.

## BA needs to boost its efficiency programme

British Airways management has spent a good deal of time circling around in the hope of burning off staff opposition to its business efficiency programme but sooner or later it had to crash land. The £125m hill BA has picked up following last month's panel of "wise persons", in that it publishes three-day stoppage by cahin crew demonstrate economy and its future prospects. This ployees who are in for a humpy ride if BA proof is taken as an analysis of the prospects. is to achieve its target of saving £1 ho by the

- or rather their sick notes - and passengers decide to check in elsewhere. The strike costs are significantly above analysts' expec-tations. Together with a warning that the strong pound could leave a further £200m dent in profits this year, it was enough to send the shares spiralling down another 30p. making for a near 20 per cent retreat since its full-year results back in May.

Admittedly, BA has been buffeled by more than just poor employee relations. The continuing failure to receive regulatory approval for the alliance with American Airlines and the damage caused by the strength of sterling are at least as had for

sentiment. But if BA is to repeat the success it achieved in the first decade after privatisation, then the business efficiency programme will be the key. One-off costs of £125m are small beer in comparison to potential benefits of £1 ho.

The difficulty for BA is that as sooo as it finds ways of saving money, new opportunities to speod it pop up. Although the efficiency programme is now two years old, the staff bill is rising, not falling or remaining sta-

Launching a low-cost airline is not really the answer. BA has effectively been carrying out just such a policy by franchising out the name, livery and flight code to other airlines. Yesterday, but for the skill of a pilot, the dangers inherent in that strategy could

# Brown names economic advisers to the Treasury

Diane Coyle **Economics Editor** 

Gordon Brown yesterday unnounced the appointment of two experts to his longpromised "Council of Economie Advisers" at the Treasury.

Paul Gregg, un economist from the London School of Economics specialising in the jobs market and inequality. and Chris Wales, a tax partner from Arthur Andersen, will work with teams of Treasury

Although the new Council is billed as a replacement to the disbanded Panel of Independent Experts, the experts will focus on separate areas of policy rather than offering advice as a group. Yesterday's announcement made it clear that the individual policy experts would work alongside sepurate Treasury teams on the Government's priority areas. Ed Balls, the special adviser Mr Balls. However, the ultimate

Advisers should not distract attention

from the fact that the most influential

adviser in the Treasury, and the chief

architect in the construction of post-Tory

Britain's economic policy, is a 30-year-old who, so far in his brief career, has

been a student and a Financial Times

The remarkable influence of Ed Balls

stems from the fact that he has imported

from America a radically different in-

tellectual current. Mr Balls deserves

much of the credit for making over the

party's economics in New Labour clothes.

macroeconomic policy - choosing the right level of government borrowing and

interest rates. When the Chancellor says

the Government will be responsible

as taxes on capital, training, welfare ben-efits and the structure of the jobs market.

sion took place at Harvard six years ugo. The child of an academic biologist, his

early education at Nottingham High

School was followed by a degree in Phi-

The young Ed's intellectual conver-

New Labour is not very interested in

leader writer.

achieve something.

to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will continue to play a dominant role in economic policy. He has not termally heen named chairman of the new Council hut will co-ordinate policy as the Chancellor's main adviser.

Further outside appointments to the Council will he an-nounced Eventually there could be up to six experts brought in. In addition, the Treasury has not yet indicated whether or when Sir Alan Budd, its outgoing chief economic adviser, will he replaced. He is due to retire from the Treasury and move fulltime to the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee in

Names in the frame for the top economics job in the Treasury have included Gavyn Davies, chief economist at Goldman Suchs, and Professor Charles Bean of the London School of Economics, as well as body in work.

structure of advice remains unclear. The Treasury dismissed recent reports that Permanent Secretary Sir Terry Burns will be replaced as "extremely speculative".

Paul Gregg will work parttime in his current position as Senior Research Associate at the LSE's Centre for Economic Performance. He will focus on the Government's welfare-towork programme and the review of the tax and henefit system being en-ordinated hy Barelays Bank chief executive Martin Taylor. Mr Gregg is a specialist nn

joh insecurity, poverty and movements into and out of unemployment. He co-authored research which established the fact, often quoted by the Chancellor, that one in five non-pensioner households moved to City law firm Simin the UK does not have any- mons & Simmons as an advis-

The architect of New Labour's economics

most influential adviser on the Chancellor's team

losophy, Politics and Economics at Ke-hility has helped the Chancellor. But

ble College. Oxford. He then went on some see a catch with the new approach

tn win a Kennedy Scholarship to study in its vulnerability to fashions, to any new

Harvard has a strong claim to be the theory fit the latest data hetter.

who worked in Sweden from 1991 to 1995 as head of Arthur Andersen's international tax practice there. He has specialised in corporate tax issues, including the financing of takeovers, and is expected to time at the Treasury and part- concentrate on the Government's planned reform of company taxation. His clients have included hig US and European

multinationals. The new Council of Economic Advisers has been billed as a parallel to the US body of the same name, but so far the similarity is confined to the name. The Treasury has for some years drawn on advice from outside economists, often part-time, on their particular areas of expertise. Kenneth Clarke, the for-



The new Council is to advise Number 11 on policy design

ment yesterday said the terms of reference for the new Council were: "To advise the mer chancellor, appointed Ed-Chancellor of the Exchequer on ward Troup, who has since the design and implementation

# Halifax data met with caution

Diane Coyle

The first tentative signs yes terday that consumer spending was not after all getting out of control were not expected to carry much weight with the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee when it meets this week.

Analysts remained divided about whether or not the Bank will announce the fourth increase in the cost of borrowing in four months after its meet ing ends on Thursday.

Halifax reported yesterday

that house prices had remained almost flat last month, climbing only 0.1 per cent. The annual rate of increase slowed to 6.4 from 7.1 per cent in June. Halifax said that the housing

recovery would continue, describing the market as "well supported". But its downbeat figures cootrasted with Nationwide's alternative measure. On Friday Nationwide said its house price index had jumped 1.8 per cent in July, with the annual rate picking up to 12.2 per cent.

A spokeswoman for Halifax claimed its rival's figures reflected a bias towards London and the South-east. But Nationwide said its figures were weighted to adjust for regional differences and were also more reliable because based oo a bigger number of housing transactions than the Halifax measure

With mixed signals on the housing market, a separate indicator yesterday pointed to lation last month. The growth in the narrow money measure MO, of which cash forms the biggest component, eased to 5.9 from 6.2 per cent in Juoe.

This was its slowest annual growth rate for 18 months. But economists were wary about drawing any conclusions for high street spending, as retail sales growth has picked up during this year even as narrow money growth has slowed. Adam Cole, UK economist at

James Capel, said consumers were spending on big ticket items which were unlikely to be paid for in cash. Analysts also pointed out that all other recent indicators of consumer spending had indicated booming demand. Yesterday's figures were oot enough to change the minds of the Bank's experts if they wanted to raise interest rates. I tenant covenants.

CABLE & WIRELESS

# IN BRIEF

## German industrial output climbs

Industrial output in Germany bounced by I.4 per cent in June, reversing a sharp fall in May. The Economics Ministry said there would be a "ooticeable" upward revision to the latest figures in a few weeks' time. Economists said the figures indicated that recovery in Germany was on track, if not exactly robust, despite lacklustre domestic demand. Exports are driving the gains in output. According to the breakdown of the figures, construction output expanded by 6 per ceot in June after a 4.9 per cent fall in May, while manufacturing output rose 1.2 per cent following a 1.3 per cent decline in May.

## Shift in semiconductor market

Foreign companies secured a record 326 per cent share of Japan's semiconductor market during the first quarter of the year, according to US government figures. The previous record of 29.6 per cent was set in the fourth quarter of 1995. "This is evideoce that market forces are at work," said US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky. A year ago the US and Japan reached a new agreement on semiconductors aimed at ensuring continued progress on market access and industry co-operation.

## Birmingham buys mortgage portfolio

Birmingham Midshires Building Society, which has been widely runoured to be in takeover talks with Royal Bank of Scotland, has bought £460m worth of commercial mortgage loans from UCB, part of the French-based Compagnie Bancaire. The price paid for the portfolio, which is valued on a multiple of the difference hetween the interest on the loans and the cost of financing and administering the portfolio, has not been disclosed, but is thought to be approximately £50m. The portfolio consists of just 1,300 loans, ranging from takeaway restaurants to nu homes, with an average value of £350,000 each, and will double the society's commercial lending book to £920m. Over the past five years Birmingham Midshires has bought 18 mortgage portfolios with a total value of almost £4bn, including £1.3hn worth of loans bought from HYPO-MSL. It will now have a total loan book of £7.6bn, about 85 per cent of it residential mortgages.

## Sedgwick links up with Nikols Brichetto

Sedgwick Group is establishing a joint venture which will merge some of its risk services, insurance and reinsurance broking and employee benefits consulting operations with those of Nikols Brichetto Group. The venture, which will be completed before the end of the year, will operate initially from offices in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia. Nikols will own 51 per cent of the venture and a representative of the Moratti family, which owns Securifin, will be represented on the board of Sedgwick. Financial details were not disclosed.

## Zeneca's schizophrenia drug approved

Zeneca Group has received formal approval from the UK Medicines Cootrol Agency to market Seroquel, its oew antipsychotic for the treatment of schizophrenia. The approval follows last week's notification from the US Fnod and Drug Administration of the "approvable" status of Seroquel for the American market. Seroquel is Zeneca's first entry into the antipsychotic market and continues its expansion into the treatment of central nervous system (CNS) disorders. Zeoeca's product range in the CNS therapeutic area includes treatments for migraine, epilepsy, auxiety and depression as well as anaesthetics. In 1996, sales m this area amounted to 16 per cent of Zeneca's total world-wide sales in pharmaceuticals of £2.435bn.

## Newport launches hostile bid for Delyn

Newport Holdings launched a hostile, all-share £9.6m takeover bid for the rival Delyn property investment group. The basis of the bid is four new Newport ordinary shares for every three Delyn shares, valuing each of the target's shares at 110p. Delyn's shares climbed 17p to 98.5p. Newport said it believed the acquisition of Delyn would provide a strong platform from which to expand the enlarged group and would provide shareholders with an opportunity to invest in a soundly managed company with a proven record of investment in quality commercial properties let on strong

## 'Academics hold Ed Balls in very high regard, and his intellectual credibility has helped the Chancellor'

about borrowing levels and the inflation target, he means it. The new economics Oxbridge for intellectual arrogance. is orthodox about these issues, prefer-The assumption that Harvard students ring to tackle the interesting problems where governments can probably canteens, delivered with the lectures and This means looking at policies concerned with the "supply side" of the econ-omy – its wealth-creating potential – such

The naming of the first members of Gordon Brown's new Council of Economic most influential actions on the career of Ed Balls, the

for two years at Harvard University.

world's most clitist academy, as well as

one of its best. And one of the priciest too - its fees are up to \$30,000 (£18,000)

a year. Despite the cost, though, it does

not quite achieve the same social ex-

proven in the joh market. Students are lectured by people who have reached the top of their professional tree, and the best - like Ed Balls - can work closely with academic superstars. In his case it was Lawrence Summers, a 42-year old economist who is now a senior Climon administration official. Academics hold Mr Balls in very

clusiveness as Oxford. But it caps even commentators in this country. Giving his

must hope that the Government does not fall for its own rhetoric."

assessment of the Government's first 100 days, Simoo Briscoe, head of research are superior is added to the food in the at investment bank Nikko Europe, says: "There has been a focus on good PR at the expense of well thought-out policies." He finds Labour's economics long on thetoric and short on action, adding: "We

twist that seems to make economic

vard colleagues finds the whole approach gimmicky. He says: "You can be too clever by half with this method."

It is a view that is shared by some

One of Larry Summers's senior Har-

One casualty of the Treasury team's emphasis on the presentation of policies. io which Mr Balls is helped by Gordon Brown's spin-doctor, Charlie Whelan, is high regard, and his intellectual credicivil servant Jill Rutter, the former head in the Treasury.

that rhetoric will continue to play too great a part in economic policy. Another frequent criticism is that Mr Balls lacks the long sweep of experience. Of course, this might just be the sour grapes of older and less successful economists. But one thing that does put people off is his intellectual certainty. Until they feel the lash of his intellect, impatient with their slowness, people tend to like him. He has the politician's talent for flirta-

of the press office. Although clearly one

head of press is enough, her sudden de-

parture has not helped allay suspicions

tion and charm when he tries - with, by all accounts, the predictable effect on many of his female colleagues. He swiftly learnt everyday political skills in Mr Brown's office, but the first thing everybody says about this Young Turk of the world of economic policy is that he is a good footballer. In the world of New Labour a lot is made of soccer affiliations. Ed supports Norwich and Arsenal.

More significantly, he plays in the amateur Thames League - for the Financial Times team. He did not sign for Lahnur's Red Menace team. Old Labourites read a lot into that. One of the Labour team's players draws the con-clusion: "Gordon Brown has a tradition of taking activists and deactivating them."

Mr Balls is a long-standing and committed Labour Party member. But it is the fact that he is New Labour through and through that cements his importance



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Share spotlight

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# Holiday market wakes up for HSBC and Pearson

**FTSE 100** -3.6 4895.7 It seemed that market-makers FTSE 250 had finally packed their bags -3.4 4485.0 for the summer yesterday. after a quiet day's trading which was only enlivened by

**FTSE 350** 2346.8 two sets of dazzling corporate SEAQ VOLUME interim results. Just 600 million shares 599.3m shares, 48,026 bargains Gilts Index

changed hands across the market and Footsie failed to hold ground the other side of the 4,900 mark that it reached in early trading. It closed 3.6 points down at 4895.7, baving touched 4.907.2 at one stage.

Pearson and HSBC Holdings stole most of the limelight, as both impressed with betterthan-expected interim profits. Pearson climbed 26.5p after the company's chief executive. Marjorie Scardino, pledged to double its £4bn value within

A handful of financial stocks were dragged along in HSBC's wake. NatWest - which reports results today - climbed 10.5p to 870, and Standard Char-

tered improved 8.5p to close at £10.01. But investors seemed to be heeding analysts' warnings that banks could be in line for a sharp correction, as others in

the sector were not looking so Bank of Scotland was among the top Footsie fallers, shedding 15p to 430p. Abbey National also closed 15p poorer at 834.5p, after a feeling in the market that its results

last week had not matched up to those of Lloyds and HSBC. Declines in banking stocks in the US and Europe had also unnerved the financial sector,



MARKET REPORT CATHY NEWMAN

firmed 5p to £10.20 on reports competitor was developing a that a \$400m joint venture in rival drug for osteoporosis. Shanghai had been approved. And despite a bearish note from Société Générale, Rolls-Royce edged up 1p to 237p.

The biggest Footsie loser by far was British Airways, which plummeted by 30p to 610p after the company revealed that strikes by cabin crew would cost £125m in the first half of the year.

Pharmaceuticals, which have been up and down like a yo-yo in recent weeks, were back in

And despite Zeneca's announcement that its schizophrenia drug, Seroquel, had been approved, the company

eased 16.5p to £20.02p. Two drugs minnows did buck the sector's downward trend, though. Shire Pharmacenticals jumped 8p to 249.5p on news of its £113m acquisition of the US-based Richwood Pharmaceutical Company, and Oxford Molecular firmed 3.50 after its interim results pleasantly surprised analysts.

end of last week to refer Pacifi- but it nevertheless ended 17p Corp's bid for Energy Group to the Monopolies and Merg

ers Commission. A bearish note from HSBC James Capel did not help matters, and analysts said investors were taking profits after a good run for the sector. Thames Water finished 9p off at 776.5p; Wessex Water dropped 16.5p to 462.5p; and Anglian Water joined the slipperv slope, shedding 19.5p to 771.5p. £19.82.

Among the second-liners, Telewest Communications was one of the best performers, after confirmation that it was in preliminary merger talks with NTL, the US cable company. Telewest added 4p to 83p.

While Telewest was on the rise, Flextech, the cable and satellite programme supplier, was floundering after a press report that its chief executive,

poorer at 636p.

Investors were also keen on Amersham International, which is shortly to announce the completion of the fusion of its biotechnology division with Pharmacia & Upjohn. The company has also increased its clout recently with the £1.5bn merger with Norway's Nycomed. Amersham rose 57.5p to

Elsewhere, a sharp increase in pre-tax profits at Filtronic Comtek sent shares soaring 19p to 394p, buoyed by optimistic noises from Kleinwort Benson, Merrill Lynch, and its own house broker, Panmure Gordon. And an "add" note from

Nat West nudged More Group up 2p to 593.5p. Viglen, the personal computer company spun off from Amstrad, made its debut yes**Taking Stock** 

Regent lines called time on its investment in Surrey Free Inns, selling its 5.5 per cent holding in the AIM-listed company for 465p a share. Regent, which jumped 13.5p to close at 278.5p, made £1.55m on the sale, and said it would use the cash to fund its expansion plans. Surrey Free inns, which many industry observers had expected to become a bid target for Regent, lost 5p to 469p.

Colt Telecommunications surged 21p to an all-time high of 388.5p, on news that it had signed an interconnect agreement with France Telecom. The company, which is expected to complete a similar deal in Germany within a month, announces secondquarter results next week. Dealers said heavy buying on is quoted on Nasdaq - had

Friday in the US - where Colt analysts said. the doldrums again after neg-HSBC added as much as terday, placed at 72.5p. But it Among other blue chips. Water stocks were also on ative press comment over the 120p at one time in the day, but Roger Luard, was to leave the lost ground during the day, and the slide yesterday, as traders Bass added 8p to 842.5p deweekend. Cortecs Internathe initial excitement wore off company. Flextech issued a spite JD Wetherspoon's deciaiso helped. continued to fret about the closed 8p down at 64.5p. 10wards the close of play and it finished 44.5p better at £22.38. tional ended 11p poorer at statement denying the story, Government's decision at the sion to ban alcopops. ICI 151.5p after reports that a The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange, Smpty dial 0891 123 335, and when prompted to do, so enter the 4-digit code Banks, Merchant Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed desi-independent index, including its portfolio facility, phone 089 For assistance, cell our helpine 0171 873 4378 (800cm - 500pm). Market leaders: Top 20 volumes VolT080 Stock Shell Tarreport, 2730000 Bright Seel 577 1280000 Bright Arway BT 1280000 Hellinx 720000 Woolwich 720000 Centrics 700000 Vodelons 60000 ASOA GIDED 460000 FISE 100 Index hour by hour Open 48957 down 25 09.00 48825 down 168 "I bank when I want because **First Direct is** always open" **Building/Construction** | March | Marc 200 ± 75 199 200 1 190 2 for 24 hour telephone banking 0800 24 24 For full written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Leads LS98 2RF.

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# Takeover talks at Country Casuals fall through

**Andrew Yates** 

THE INDEPEND

Taking Stock

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The fortunes of the troubled Country Casuals women's clothes retailer took another turn yesterday when the company admitted that takcover talks with a rival, believed to be the Alexon womenswear group. had fallen through and sent the

share price into a spin.

The group, which has been the subject of numerous bid approaches over the past few years, now plans to remain independent. However the announcement opens the door for Mark Bunce, a founder and former chief executive of the company, to relaunch a bid for the group. Tom Adam, chairman of

Country Casuals, indicated that the offer for the group was simply pitched too low, Our principal shareholders

felt that our company was worth more." he said. Country Casuals is not in talks with Mr Bunce at the moment but Mr Adam did not rule out future takeover discussions.

Talks with Mr Bunce, who believe Mr Bunce may have difowns nearly 11 per cent of the company, collapsed in June when he failed to come up with a definite offer for the business and other groups indicated their interest in the company. Mr Bunce and his wife

Christina, a fellow founder of Country Casuals, left the group by mutual agreement at the end of June, having earlier resigned from the board after rejecting Country Casuals' plans to sell Elvi and Lerose, two loss-making subsidiaries, to management buyout teams. Mr Adam confirmed that Mr and Mrs Bunce had received compensation on leaving the group but declined to reveal how much they were paid.

Analysis speculate that Mr Bunce would have to offer more than 140p a share for the group. That is the price that for-mer chairman John Shannon was willing to pay for the company when he launched an unsuccessful £27m hostile hid two years ago. But some observers £22m.

ficulty in raising the sort of capital required to secure a takeover.

Mr Bunce was unavailable for

comment yesterday.
Country Casuals will be left to concentrate on its cure retail hrand, which has had a chequered history in the past few years. Operating profits from this division fell from more than £3.5m in 1995 to £3.1m in the year to last January, "We didn't provide clothes that our customers wanted. We got it wrong. But we are confident about this year. Our new ranges have been well received," said Mr Adam yesterday. The company announced that like-forlike sales for the first six months to 26 July were running ahead 8 per cent on last year.

Country Casuals has been a poor performer since it was floated at 130p a share in 1992. Its share price slumped 20p to 113.5p on yesterday's news. valuing the group at less than

# Silver Shield buys 80% stake in Swansea for £100

Swansea City is to become the latest football club to join the stock market, alongside the likes of Manchester United, Newcastle, Sunderland, and Astoo Villa.

Silver Shield Group, the Coventry-hased replacement windscreen company, announced yesterday it had signed a deal to buy 80 per cent of the club for just £100 and take over some £1.4m worth of debts.

Doug Sharpe. Swansea's chairman, has agreed to sell the stake through his holding company, Enterline, and will resign from the club's board after the deal goes through.

Rohin Sharpe, chief executive, will stay on the board, joined by Neil McClure, Silver Shield's chairman.

Amert from the £10 price for the stake, Silver Shield is paying £449,900 to take over loans and interest of £1.4m owned to another of Mr Sharpe's companies. Silver Shield is also paying £25,000 to cover loans to the club from Mal Griffiths, one of the directors.

To fund the deal Silver Shield, which came to the stock market in spring 1996, is raising £400,000 by issuing 11.4 million new shares at 3.5p each. The group's share price slipped yesterday from 4p to 3.75p on news of the proposed acquisitioo and the accompanying rights issue. One of Mr Sharpe's



Doug Sharpe: Will resign after the deal goes through

1.4 million shares, which it cannot sell for a year.

Swansea City, which is managed by the ex-Liverpool mid-fielder, Jan Molby, plays in the third division of the Football League and narrowly missed promotion at the end of last scason following a play-off at

Mr McClure said be was attracted by the chance to build

companies will pay £50,000 for an all-seat stadium and leisure complex close to the centre of Swansca which would provide added income for investors.

Mr McClure said he hoped negotiations on the stadium would be concluded in up to eight weeks. He explained: "We have been looking for some time for opportunities to ac-quire valuable assets at reasonable prices to add to our Silver Shield Screen subsidiary."

	Co	mpany Resul	ts		
	Turnover E	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend	
ne (04)	2.22bn (2.10bn)	220m (150m)	16.Sp (11.9p)	- (-)	
BA (Q1) Fibrosic Comtok (F)	48.6m (33.5m)	4.1m (8.2m)	6.52p (5.59p)	1.25p (1.0p)	
HSBC (I)	- (-)	2.62bn (2.32bn)	65.53p (60.14p)	20p (15p)	
McKay Securities (F)	- (-)	4.16m (2.84m)	19.1p (8.7p)	8.3p (5.5p	
New London Capital (F)	· (-)	6.52m (3.85m)	5.8p (4.64p)	6.0p (5.0p)	
Oxford Migraelita (N)	1,000 (-)	-1.25m (-)	-2.3p (-)	- (-)	
Oxford Malecular (1)	6.17m (4.35m)	-877,000 (-950,000)	-1.1p (-1.7p)	- (-)	
Pearson (I)	957.9m (938.6m)	80.7m (30.2m)	11,1p (2.8p)	7.50 (-)	
Zotelsame (I)	12.08m (10.56m)	4.025m (3.053m)	7.6p (5.6p)	2.2p (2.0p)	
	. Nine months				

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# Scardino's grand vision is blurry Marjoric Scardino, Pearson's new chief executive, has outlined her grand vision for the future. She wante to arbitrary double the

future. She wants to achieve double-digit carnings per share growth every year and to double the value of the company over the next five years, no less. That looks easier said than done.

For a start, despite years of reshaping, Pearson remains a sprawling cooglomerate spanning leisure businesses such as Madame Tussauds and Alton Towers, a plethora of TV and publishing interests and even un investment hank, Lazards. The synergies between these businesses appear few and far between and Pearson continues to be run more like a quasi-investment trust

than an actively managed company. Ms Scardino's answer is to overhaul Pearson's structure and integrate the remaining businesses. But specific plans are thin on the ground. Businesses will go, although she will not say which ones, and acquisitions are on the cards, although she will not say where. Ms Scardino will also have her work cut out to address Pearson's poor margins. In all of its three main divisions, information, education and entertainment. Pearson's margins are at least five

percentage points below its peers.

That said, Ms Scardino has got off to an encouraging start. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June have jumped from £30m to £81m. The figures were muddled by £18,6m worth of write-offs last year at Mindscape, Pearson's troubled US software husiness, and this year by start-up losses at Channel 5, in which Pearson has a 24 per cent stake, and a £5.9m hit from the strong pound.

Even so, underlying operating profits almost doubled to £65.5m from £33.5m, thanks to a stonking performance from the Financial Times. The pink paper's circulation is up and it plans to capture a chunk of the US market.

Of course Pearson still has more than its fair share of problem husinesses. Mindscape, its most disastrous acquisition of recent years, is still losing money hand over fist and a fraud unearthed this year at Penguin's US publishing di-vision will cost £100m. However both these potential disasters appear to be under control. Mindscape could make a profit in the second half and Penguin's new management has swung into action to limit damage. Ms Scardino's confident statement

helped push the shares up 26.5p to 6925p yesterday. Analysis forecast current year profits of around £300m, putting the shares on a prospective p/e

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son until more of Ms Scardino's plans \$1.7m on sales which have ballooned are known. If Pearson can meet her targets, the shares look cheap. But until her new strategy becomes clearer the shares remain fairly priced for now.

## Shire focuses on buying Richwood

Shire Pharmaceuticals chief executive Rolf Stahel is not one to let the grass grow under his feet. Less than six months after forking out up to \$100m (£62m) for the acquisition of Pharmavene, a US drug development company, Shire is proposing to pay as much as \$186m for Richwood Pharmacentical, another US pharmaceuticals group, whose main products are "treatments" for narrely children.

Richwood has built an impressive record on the strength of DextroStat and Adderall, its two drugs for socalled attention deficit hyperactivity

Five-year record

Pre-tax profits (Em)

Earnings par share (p)

Dividends per share (p)

Operating profit

Parmover (Ebra)

In the space of three years, the group has turned pre-tax losses of \$873,000

Pearson: At a glance

Market value: £3.97bn, stare price 692.5p

165

Half year 1997

Half year 1996

Share price

ratio of 19.1t is difficult to value Pear- on sales of just \$3.74m into profits of to \$15.3m in the latest full-year to December:

The figures have been transformed last year's launch of Adderall, which in the space of 15 months has captured 5 per cent of a \$457m market in the US.

Along with DextroStat, Richwood claims to have woo 7 per cent of the market in the first five months of this year, parily, it would appear, at the expense of Medeva's generic drug methylphenidate. Richwood's sales should hit \$40m

this year, with profits, already war-ranted at \$7.5m for the latest half year, set to soar accordingly. Even though market growth has slowed to around a third of the 20 to 30 per cent typical of the recent past, owning the fastest-growing drug in the category clearly has exciting potential.

But it is not without its risks. Treat-

ing a behavioural problem with drugs remains controversial and, because their old patents have expired, Rich-wood's products are potentially exposed to competition.

Shire has convincing answers to these questions, while Richwood's 65-

1996

\_\_\_Half year\_\_\_

be boasting profits of £11m this year and puts an underlying value of 400p on the shares. Up 8p at 249.5p, they are good value.

earnings.
Even if competition means Richwood's sales will peak by 2000, Lehman Brothers reckons Shire could

## Market ready to forgive Filtronic

tiltronic Comtek, a maker of hi-tech parts for mobile telephones, well illustrates the dangers of investing in small companies. After a storming first year on the stock market, the company's heavy reliance on one customer, namely Motorola of the US, sent the company and its shares into a flat spin.

The problem centred on the code division multiple access technology on which Motorola has based its latest generation of digital mobile telephones. First technical hitches and now financing problems have slowed adop-tion of the technology in the huge US market. Given that over half Filtronic's sales are made to Motorola, it was hardly surprising the delay should lead to two profits warnings last year and an absence of first-half profits. Since then the group has gone on to lose its new chief executive, Greg Hey-Shipton. But the market seems to be in a

mood to forgive and forget, marking the shares up 19p to 394p yesterday after Filtronic unveiled pre-tax profits up a quarter to £4.06m for the year to May.

The figures were in line with analysts' reduced expectations, but more importantly, the company remains hullish about the future. Orders have nearly doubled over the year to £24.7m. and have since risen to £37m, nearly 80 per cent of last year's sales. Forecasts suggest the number of mobile phone chatterers could rise by 2.5 times to 500 million by 2002, yet analysts reckoo Filtronic still has a lowly 6 to 7 per cent of its addressable market of around \$1bn. The group is gearing up to meet de-

mand with a massive expansion of production in the UK, but claims gearing should not rise above the year-end figure of 45 per cent. Even so, the shares are high enough on a forward p/e of 25, assuming £10.5m profits this year.

# Galaxy chief oustea without payoff

**Clifford German** 

The chief executive of Galaxy Media Corporation has been ousted after a change of strategy brought about since the appointment of Robert Stigwood, the impresario, as nonexecutive chairman a couple of

months ago.

John Webber, who only became the executive head of the television programme maker and entertainment business last October, is not receiving any compensation for loss of office.

His departure was the result of a significant shift in the company's planned future devel-opment, said Christopher Moran, the company's vice-chairman leading shareholder, and the well-known former

Mr Stigwood, a long-standing friend of Mr Moran, also stands to become a significant shareholder after having been granted options over 350,000 shares. The company has 3.5 million shares in issue, and exercise of the options would give Mr Stigwood a 9 per cent

stake in the company.

Galaxy said it would concentrate on its interests in film, TV, music and stage promotions, and added that the business of managing sports events and artists which Mr Webber brought into the company when he joined Galaxy would be retained.

Mr Webber, a former vice-chairman of Mark McCormack's International Management Group, injected his own BM International business interests and bought 150,000 shares at 135p when he joined the company last year.

The share price closed unchanged at 160p on the Seat market yesterday, valuing the company, which has yet to make a profit, at around £5.6m.

Galaxy paid Mr Webber, who did not have a contract entitling him to compensation, a consultancy fee of £55,000 a year and a profit-related bonus which lapses with his departure. Mr Webber went on holiday last Friday and his future plans are unknown, according to his spokeswoman yesterday.

Galaxy was created from a reverse takeover of CSC Investment Trust by Mike Mansfield Television less than two years ago. Mr Moran own about 29 per cent of the company, Mr Mansfield about 15 per cent.

# HSBC Holdings plc



# 1997 Interim Results

Half-year to	30 June 1997	30 June 1996
Profit before tax	£2,623m	£2,321m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£1,757m	£1,586m
Earnings per share	65.93p	60.14p
Dividends per share	20.00p	15.00p
Capital resources	£24,504m	£23,403m

First half 1997 over first half 1996

- Pre-tax profit up 13% and attributable profit пр 11%
- Pre-tax profit up 21% and attributable profit up 19% in Hong Kong dollars
- Earnings per share up 10%
- Dividends per share up 33%
- Total capital ratio 14.2% and tier 1 capital ratio 9.4%

Comment by Sir William Purves, **HSBC Group Chairman** 

🕻 I am pleased to report that in the first half of 1997 HSBC Holdings continued to generate a strong return on shareholders' funds, producing attributable profit of £1,757 million, 11 per cent ahead of the comparable figure in 1996, despite the adverse exchange rate translation impact of stronger sterling. Our capital strength enabled us to make major investments while maintaining dividend growth.

"Our Board of Directors has declared a first interim dividend of 20 pence per share, an increase of 33 per cent compared with 15 pence declared in 1996.

"Operating profit rose by 19 per cent to £2,402 million mainly as a result of asset growth in Asia, the United Kingdom and North America which more than compensated for the pressure on lending margins. Credit quality remained high and cost discipline was maintained.

"We believe that the investments made in the first half of 1997, many of which were explained in our 1996 Annual Report and Accounts, will broaden the Group's platform for growth into the next century.

"The smooth transition of Hong Kong to a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China at midnight on 30 June was an important milestone. Our confidence remains high in the economic strength of the Hong Kong SAR, in its role as a financial centre and in our position within the Hong Kong financial community.

"I am confident that our committed employees, capital strength, continuing technological development and cost vigilance will enable us to meet the challenges of increasing competition and very rapid changes in our markets and turn these into benefits for our customers and shareholders around the world. 🤧

The 1997 Interim Repon will be sent to shareholders on Friday. 15 August 1997 and copies may be obtained from Group Public Affairs of the address below.

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# Wall Street is heading for a different kind of crash

share prices on Wall Street have more than doubled while the UK equity market has risen 60 per cent. The only previous times Wall Street had risen so far so rapidly were in the mega-bull markets of 1927-1929 and 1985-1987. The chart shows the striking similarity be-tween the three periods. Both of the earlier episodes ended in disaster for investors, particularly the 1927-29 bull market, following which share prices eventually halved. While there is a significant risk that history repeats itself again and Wall Street takes a tumble before the year-end. this bull market is not characterised by a bubble in equity valuations in

the same way as before. Judged in isolation the US stock market is now just as fundamentally expensive, and, hence, in just as dangerous territory, as thuring the two previous mega-bull phases, if not more so. In relation to any form of absolute shareholder value - divi-dends, earnings, cash flow, book values - share prices are as bigh or higher than they were just before the October 1987 crasb. However, in both 1929 and 1987, the distortion in US and UK equity prices could be seen most clearly in the relationship between long-term interest rates or bond yields and equity valuations. This is not the case this time around.

Superficially, the current bond yield to dividend yield relationship in the US does appear to be in dangerous territory. However, relative valuations appear neutral if account is taken of the decline in the pay-out ratio in the US to a record low. In the UK, too, relative equity-bond valuation measures remain firmly in neutral territory, with a vield ratio of 2 times compared to 3.3 times just before the 1987 crash.

It may be, therefore, that current equity valuations are justified by today's lower interest rates. When rates come down the return on keeping money in the bank falls. In these circumstances investors should value a given level of future earnings

Bond yields may be thought of as having two components: an element which is necessary to compensate investors for what they think inflation

The markets may have taken low inflation into account but Mark Brown and Gareth Williams warn a reduction in growth rates could cause problems

the result that the competitive pres-

sure to keep prices down has inten-

sified. These changes have come on

the back of 1980s measures to weak-

en the power of workers. The waves

of global mergers and alliances cur-

rently taking place in the financial services, telecommunications, trans-

port and defence sectors are a re-

sponse to these trends. New

technology too has played its part. Greenspan's Humphrey-Hawkins testimony discussed at length the im-

pact on US productivity caused by computer and telecommunications

technology, which may now have ma-

tured enough to genuinely add val-

ue. In as much as these productivity

and margin gains are real and per-

manent, the rise of the US equity

1990s has been the change in the con-

duct of fiscal and monetary policy.

Both the US and Europe have tight-

ened fiscal policy. In the US, politi-

cians seem intent on balancing the

budget. The single-currency project has had a similar effect in

Europe. This has reduced the sup-

ply of debt and, hence, both real

yields and inflation expectations.

The latter effect bas been strength-

ened by the growing influence and

However, even if markets are

器

FINANCIAL TIMES Information

independence of central banks.

Bull markets compared

The other great sea change in the

market in response is rational.

rate. Arguably, equities should be duction process. Products and sermore concerned with real interest rates because higher prices should partially feed through into higher profits and dividends. Empirical research confirms that this is the case.

This brings us to possibly the main distortion in global financial markets at the present time. Real bond yields have recently fallen below the levels seen in late 1993 to their lowest level since the 1970s. This owes much to the situation in Japan, where real bond yields have tumbled from around 5 per cent at the start of the decade to under 1 per cent currently, although real yields outside Japan bave fallen in equally dramatic fashion recently.

Sub-normal rates in Japan reflect its lack of appetite or inability to spend. In effect, Japan's excess savings are financing the rest of the world's financial markets, both bonds and equities. In this way, the current climate resembles that prevalent in the run-up to the bond-market crash of February 1994, when inflation risks were relatively low. A synchronised pick-up in economic activity, or expectations thereof, would soak up excessive liquidity and cause real yields to rise. This would cause problems for equities even if it were not ac-

companied by a pick-up in inflation. As for inflation, the process of economic and technological change in the 1990s has been inherently disinflationary. Costs bave been stripped out of all stages of the pro-right to believe in low inflation and

low real yields, it is less clear that they have factored in the concomitant reduction in long-run growth rates. When nominal growth in the economy is only 5-6 per cent it is asking a lot of technology-inspired productivity improvements to produce the 10-15 per cent earnings growth required to satisfy current consensus expectations. This is particularly so when labour-cost pressures are vices are increasingly manufactured rising, albeit modestly. and sold on a world-wide basis, with

It should also be noted that technological change is a negative for those companies whose capital is ren-dered obsolete as a result. This may be why, despite all the technical progress, there is little evidence of any productivity revolution in the official data. It is also the case that the recent performance in US profits can still be explained by a pretty standard cyclical rise in profit share

and margins.

One does not have to rely on any-fairy theories about productivity miracles. In this respect the current bull case in the US certainly echoes that in the UK in 1987 when share valuations were justified on the basis of a significant improvement in potential economic growth which failed to materialise.

This caudous view on earnings would carry even more weight if standard earnings estimates in the US are not fully capturing the dilutive effect of the growing use of share options in employee remuneration - which is probably the case. In this way US companies are simply storing up problems for the future.

Unlike 1929 and 1987, current US equity ratings may be justified by the current low level of bond yields, particularly in real terms. Nevertheless, while markets may have correctly taken on board the implications of low inflation, it is less clear that they bave factored in the concomitant reduction in long-run growth rates. A crash of previous proportions would require the double whammy of a rise in real bond yields from their current historic low together with a knock to growth expectations. A very possible, if not probable,

Mark Brown and Gareth Williams are equity strategists at ABN Amro Hoare

Liffe Financial Futures

# Tennis anyone? City clears out for the summer holidays

The summer holidays are here and Gordon Brown is off to play tennis in Cape Cod, the exclusive New England resort for New Labour people. While everyone in the City packs their buckets and spades, Eddie George will be forgetting about interest rates for a bit by going walking in the Rockies. This follows a successful walking trip to the Himalayas last year by the 80-cigarettes a day Governor. An excellent opportunity to breathe some clear air.

incidentally, I hear Mr George has a flunkey to follow him around drinks parties to make sure a clean ashtray is on hand wherever he wanders. Isn't it time he gave up the demon weed?

Anyway, Mervyn King, deputy governor of the Old Lady, also plays tennis, but it is not known wbether he will be playing Mr Brown this summer. Tuscany is, of course, the favoured destination for the political masters of the European Union. Tony Blair and his counterparts, Romano Prodi of Italy and Lionel Jospin of France, are likely to bump into each other for a quick penne all arrabbiata in a hill town somewbere near Siena. Helmut Kohl prefers to stick to the Austrian Alps, I hear.

Some people have had their hols and are back at their desks such as BZW's Attila the Brum, Bill Harrison, who returned from safari a couple of weeks back.

Mr Harrison hasn't been idle. He's just hired Nagnib Kheraj from Robert Fleming to be BZW's chief administrative officer. Mr Kheraj, a ludicrously precocious 33, spent 10 years with alomon Brothers before joining Fleming, where he narrowly missed Mr Harrison during the latter's stint there. The Dulwich College and Cambridge-educated Mr Kheraj will report to Mr Harrison on functions including IT. buman resources and finance. Mr Harrison has also poached Nick Kelly from UBS to be buman resources director of BZW.

Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson, discovered this week that owning a TV studio can be a double-edged sword. She

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Gordon Brown: Will pound the asphalt at Cape Cod

bosted Pearson's results conference in the company's swanky new TV headquarters off Tottenbam Court Road, London, in a TV studio usually used to shoot the light emertainment programme Give us a Clue?

This game show features celebs such as Lionel Blair and Una Stubbs acting out charactes to other luvvies. Yesterday the Give us a Chue? signs had to be re-moved from sight, lest they give the wrong impression of Pearson's new strategy, which involves doubling in size over the next five years. Ms Scardino said: "We thought it would be inappropriate to have the Give us a Clue? logo behind us as we announced these

Incidentally. Pearson's new cathedral-like complex for telly was originally supposed to cost £15m and ended up at £40m. Ms Scardino has taken this on the chin. She confided to me yesterday that she'd already bought 10,000 shares in Pearson at 749p when she became chief executive of the company. The shares now stand at 692 5p so she's sitting on a theoretical loss, but she insists she's planning to buy more shares.

Industrial Metals

Ms Scardino's comments bad to vie with the screening vesterday of some climactic moments in Grundy TV, one of the stations owned by Pearson. One such epic moment included the wedding of Scott and Charlene in Neighbours. played by Kylie Minogue and Ja-son Donovan, as well as a dodgy German version of another soap, Sons and Daughters. It's all a long way away from Ms Scardino's original foothold in the Pearson empire at The Economist.

Mind you, everything seems to be televised these days. I hear Mervyn King will present the Bank of England's inflation report next month with a TV camera crew on hand.

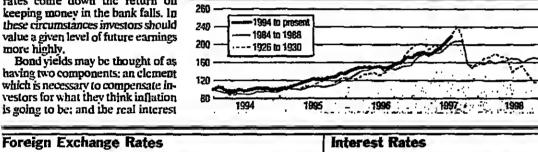
Birmingham City Football Club has appointed David Gold as chairman following the retirement of Jack Wiseman. Mr Wiseman will take up the nonexecutive role of vice-chairman and will continue to be actively involved with the club.

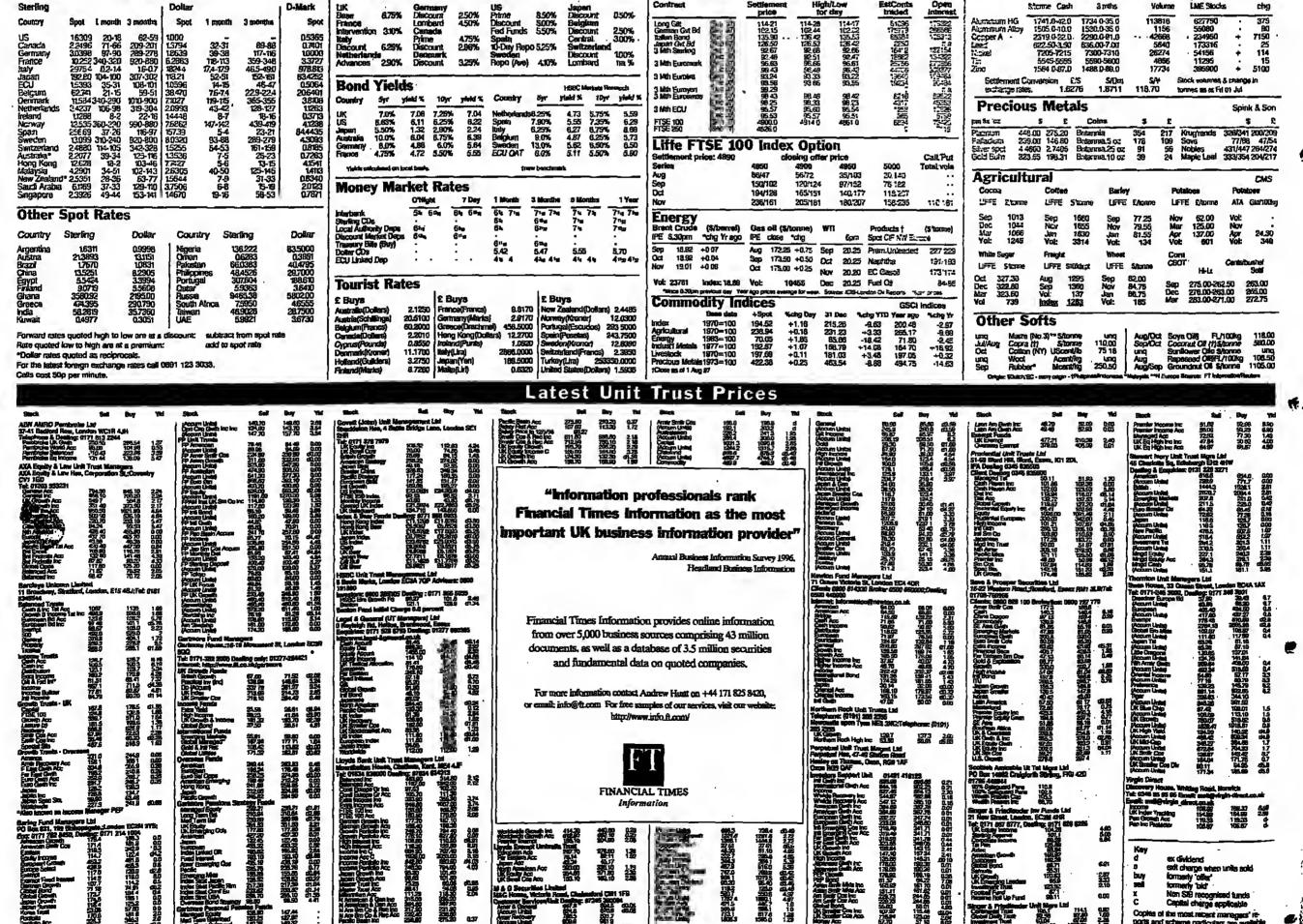
Mr Gold and his brother, Raiph, own a big chunk of the club and have built quite a business empire since emerging from the East End of London. They recentiv launched their own executive airline based at Biggin Hill. the old Battle of Britain aerodrome, in Kent. They are thought to be worth well over £200m.

Rio Tinto has appointed two new non-executive directors, and they're both card-carrying members of the great and the good: Sir Richard Sykes, chairman and chief executive of Glazo Wellcome, and Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National, Lord Tugandhat is famous for knowing virtually everyone that matters, having been an MP, a big cheese. at the Civil Aviation Authority and a grand fromage in the European Union, Most impressive, I think, is the fact that he wrote a book in 1986 entitled Making Sense of Europe. If only someone

Managed Funds, ranked by park within each sector and includin prices, is published in Saurday edi the Independent

John Willcock





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# Global recognition the aim of a galloping gourmet

Vivien lies in the region of Anjou. Touraine and Maine, which is famous for its eels and crayfish, fine white wines, and orchards full of primeurs, the haby vegetables which find their way into the finest Parisian homes.

The tastes of its most famous son go far beyond the home-grown produce, however. "I have eaten kangaroo, crocodile, alligator, snake and ostrich, which tastes like heef and chicken together. Olivier Peslier, the French champion jockey, says. And of

Peslier then not only bites the hand that feeds him. He also chews and swallows it. It is to his great good fortune that the species is stocked by had communicators, hecause horses run for Peslier despite his appetite for chomping through their family. In fact. they run for him like few men

The 27-year-old has this season taken the same journey as the William The Conqueror cruise line once navigated and with similar results.

He has completed almost a century of rides in Britain this campaign during the recesses of the French programme, 17 of them winners at a strikerate of 36 per cent. A £1 lev-

# Richard Edmondson talks to Olivier Peslier, a jockey searching for the finer things in life

over (oil), a statistic propped up channels discussing racing. In Royal Ascot winners at -1, 2(1-1 and 16-1,

This French produce clearly travels well, unlike compatriots of the past who found so much trouble on our racecourses that they might be have been supplied with saddies incorporating an airbag.

Pestier is different. He is in course 1 have eaten horse, in and out of the saddle. His attempt at our foreign language is energetic rather than precise, but it is considerably hetter than Pat Eddery's French, Come to think of it, it is hetter than Pal Eddery's

"I am riding in England for my experience," Peslier says. I want to ride everywhere in the world. And if I can ride good horses here it's easier for everyone when the horse comes to France.

"I think it's casier for a French jockey riding here than the other way round hecause the pace of the gallop is more regular. The best horse usually wins, but in France it is much slower and more tretical

"As well, people don't realise how different it is here. el stake on each of his mounts There are many journalists.

would have yielded a profit of newspapers and television recognise him but they think l am his driver.

"I like the English jockeys France we have Paris-Turf and that is about it." because they try hard and A by-product of the Rethey are used to riding every-where in the world. The public's apathy towards the sport of the figures they be-headed is that Peslier wanders American jockeys ride only in America. I tike Michael Kinane and Frankie Dettori, but unrecognised in his homefand. When, on occasions, a a lot of jockeys are good on hunch of dark-haired people their duy. Even the very best jockeys make mistakes and it is impossible to be a jockey

casionally.

and not make a mistake oc-

ly home must have seemed a

world away for the stonema-

son's son. Certainly the estate

agent thought so, and when

spection of the premises he

was asked when his parents

visitor and when he turns up

it seems right to open a bot-

tle of Chateau Margaux '83

from the host's 400-strong

cellar. "You can pay £100 a bottle in the shops for some

in St Emilion, near Bordenux.

and he buys for me," Peslier

together. It's good to open a

Dettori is now a regular

were going to arrive.

Peslier's luxurious Chantil-

'I am riding in England for my experience. I want to ride everywhere in the world'

point expensive camera equipment in his direction there is another at his side they have their sights on,

"Everybody seems to know the jockeys here and I think I'm more famous in England than I am in France," the rid-

"When 1 walk down the Champs-Elysees with Yutaka "I have very good relations with Frankie. We drink wine Take all the Japanese tourists

good bottle with a good friend. I have a lot of bottles. I like very good wine. It tastes good with something like pheas-

As he talks about food and drink Peslier gives a typically Gallie action, making a cluster of his fingers and then kissing them. This is not a gesture you see here in a fish and chip shop or on a building site after the corned beef doorsteps have been removed from

greaseproof paper. Life is good for Peslier, whose danghter Megane will be two in September. He shares his life with Marie, a television reporter who had quite an effect on the decrepit rutting stags of the Channel 4 presentation team when she appeared with them on 2,000 Guincas morning hack in May. Her husband has already

Peslier first completed his inwon an Irish Derby, a Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and, this season, a Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) on Peintre Celehre. It seems there will be plenty more where they came. from if Olivier Peslier maintains the extraordinary link he seems to be able to forge with wines, hut I have a good friend racehorses all around the

> And remember, when you see him whipping a horse in a finish there is no malicious intent in mind. He is just ten-



Dab hand: Another victory for Olivier Peslier

Photograph: Gareth Watkins/Reuters

## FOLKESTONE

2.00 Huntswood 2.30 Russian About (nb) 3.00 Stand Tall

3.30 Per

4.00 INDIAN RELATIVE (nap) 4.30 Samara Song

GOING: Good to Firm (watered).
STALLS: Straight exame - stands and; round course - outside in the for 7f to 12f.

HEAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f & 0f, high for 7f to 12l.

■ Right-hand, unshakung course.
■ Course is firm W of town off A20. Westenhanger station (service from Landon, Churing Cross) adjoins course. ADMESSION: £0 (under-16s free) CAR PARK. Free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: & Hannon = 20 winners from 127 runners at a ratio of 15.7% giving a return to 2 51 level stake of ±0.211 R Akehurst. = 16 92 winners, 17.4 runners, ±4.37; M Channon = 14 winners, ±9 runners, ±4.2%, ±25.8%; G L Moore = 12 winners, ±00 minners, ±2.9%, ±22.9%.
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: C Daffield = 10 winners, ±10 17.7 ≤1.54 Paul Eddery = 18 winners, ±10 minners, ±1.0%, ±2.1%; T Quinn = 18 winners, ±10 rides, ±5.1 (±2.27 Dane O'Neill = 14 winners, ±75 rides, ±3.7%, ±4.50.8%.
■ BLINKIRED FIRST TIME: Alpen Wolf (viscord) (±.00), Tamerin Bay (±.00), Viscord Bluin (±.30).

tor Blun (3.30), winners in Last Seven flats; None,
LONG-ORSTANCE BUNNERS; Sumara Song (4.50) sem 185 minter by I Williams from

EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND BURWASH NOVICE STAKES 2.00 (CLASS D) £4,600 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £3,333 341 RENTSWOOD (24) (0) (M/s D F Cock) R Hannon 9 4 22000 TAMEREN BAY (12) (D) (Mr P Asquetil R Boss 9 0 G Duffield 1 B 76050 ALPEN WOLF (0) (Mr B HSHT) W Mar B 12 Dene O'Noll 3 Y 0450 MEANS BUSINESS (10) (D) (Thantoe Thoroughbreds 1) 8 Meeton 8 12 Dene O'Noll 3 Y 1 MADAME CLAUDE (12) (D4 PC J Delhy) Toller B 7 Seeders 4 THURBELLIMA (Mrs A M Úpster) S Don 8 7 Million S Millio

= 6 DECLARED = 6 D

FORM GUIDE

Third to Trans Island on his debut at Newbury in June, HUNTSWOOD best, only one home when favourite for Prince Foley's race at Windsor five days Jater but Richard Hamion's curner finished little more than a length off that colt—who has since scored for lith time—and he recouped losses at Chester three weeks ago. Huntswood made all and, quickening well nearing the furforing pole, bear fave A furn a couple of lengths. The son of Weming can progress further and he does not have much to beat. Means Business was in biliniers for the first time when lending a Lingfield seller ten days ago, having proviously looked unlucky when running Doynabee to half a length in the same grade at Lindester. For the forecast a lifely condidate is James Toller's Madazine Cloude, all the better for her debut run behind Baylest in a good madden fillies' event at Newbury ten days ago. The stable had an Impressive juvenile scorer in Teapot Row at Newmarket on Saturday.

Selection: HuNTSWOOD

2.30 PAT MARSH SHOW SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 240 fillies of Penalty Value £1,985

= 7 declared = EETTURE: 9-4 Little Tombler, 7-2 Shannon, 9-2 Patricts Offen, 5-1 Russian About, 10-1 Abrarra, 14-1 First Idea, 25-1 Secret Tango 1996: Spanking Edge 2 8 10 G Hand 16-1 (A P Jones) drawn (5) 11 mm

LITTLE TUMBLER can gain a well earned win after finding one too good in both her busings. Steve Woodman's charge ran on well when going down a head to Acid Test on her debut over today's trip at Lingfield tast month and she was beeten five lengths by The Honorable Lady over seven furiongs at Yarmouth. Shannon pulled hard to hathway when 17 tengrins addit of Little Tumbler at Yarmouth but she finahed a three-and-a-half length second to Regal Revolution in a course-and-distance malden auchion before that and might provide most danger with Kleren Fallon booked for the note. Patricla Olive, a three-length runner-up to

3.00 ROSS & CO, SOLICITORS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added

_		or remary value 23,300
	-00022	PRESENT GENERATION (8) (8F) 04r 5 Luvy R Quest 4 10 0
	546230	CORMICHE QUEST (12) (C) (D) (BF) (Nr M Bishop) M Charmon 4 9 2
	431302	STAND TALL (21) (D) (Ar Chris Hurby Lady Hemes 5 9 0M Roberts
		SCATHEBURY (36) (D) (Mr Marel Shelds) K Burke 4 8 8
		AQUATIC QUEEN (17) (D) (Ar J Johnston) C Dayer 3 8 7T E Dattag (5)
		ROBELLION (11) (0) (Nr George S Thompson) D Attachnot 6 8 6
	661000	ROCKCRACKER (8) (CD) (My P E Agon) G Mangarson 5 8 6
		WADERS DREAM (22) (CD) IC Motory Partnership Pol Michel B 7 10 America Sanders (5) 5

Minimum weight: 7st 10th, True handloop weight: Worders Drisom 7st 6th. BETTING: 11-4 Stand York, 7-2 Combobs Quest, 4-1 Present Generation, belikos, 7-1 Scattlanbury, 9-1 Rooksmeiore, 14-1 Weighders Drinner, 1996: Never Think Twos 3-9 2 C Scally (7) 5-1 (K Word drawn (3) 10 ran

1996: Never Think Twoo 3 9 2 C Scrily (1) 5-1 (in rong) down for all non-FORM CURDE.

Present Generation, cuil a meriden but rurner-up on five occasions – including behind Mez-zorando in a field of 16 at Yermouth and Saflo at Newcostle on his last two starts – will have Vierren Fallon's assistance for the first time and could go close even with his 10st but COR-tions as a second of the colorator's time with last Season included one in a seller NOTHE QUEST is preferred. The selection's three wins last sesson included one in a seller over seven furiongs here and she went in over five at Carliste and over sx at Nottingham both in May. Four lengths clear of the third when inched out by Pazicato (winner of her previous race) at Bighton three weeks ago, she followed with a length-and-a-half second to Rasist The Force when market leader at Bighton but was relegated to third. Robellion, who chelled up five victories in 1996, hasn't shown the same sparied the season but he did show signs of a reum to form lest time what a fast-finishing length fourth of ten to Ashkerrary over five furiongs at Chepistow 11 days ago and the return to six will suit. Stand Tallisan Berbason to half a length in a field of 15 at Bighton lest time and could trouble the best of these. Seatherbury gened consecutive who at Nusseburgh jealer) in April and at Windsor the following month, the first time with Fation aboard and the second under today's partner, Denyt Holland. Nat Burko's numer has firished unplaced in three of his last four starts but was numer-up to Broctune Gold on a return to Musseburgh on his permitmate start and is 7th lower than his last win. Aquantic Queen won a 17-numer maden handicap off an 8th lower mark at Ripon last month and might progress again. Rockcracker ran on strongly no win most decisively over course and distance four roces ago.—Wedera Dream a ten-tangth eighth of 14 - but is marginally worse off with Robeltion, who finished a length and a helf in trong of him when both were unplaced to Meranti at Salsbury three weeks ago.

3.30 CHERTON MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,261

0-0602 MOON COLONY (28) (As Bera Lassrus) Lady Hernes 4 10 0... 246523 PEPPERS (13) (Air M Neimes-Crocker) K Burke 4 9 13...... ...... K Fellon 3 000- DRIFF (377) Mr 8 Haggs:) Sr M Prescot 3 9 3 4 4 7 0-6003 VERDINGA FRANCO (15) (Mr J J Wilcom) P Hodge 4 8 7 00-00 SYLVARI JUBEACION (25) (Mr J J Winson) P Mischel 3 8 5 000040 VICTOR BILLIN (USA) (8) Mr R Del Roseni \_Dene C'Nell 2 0-0006 EMPETHOUS LADY (USA) (8) (AIr Niles Hankett) W Musson 4 7 10 -

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. The handling weights: Vietor Ellum 7st 7th, Impetatous Lieby 7st 5th. BETTRIC: 2-1 Petperts, 5-2 Moon Colony, 9-2 Veronics Planco, 5-1 Drift, 10-1 Victor Blum, 16-1 Sylves Austracion, 20-1 Impetations Lindy 1990: Remg Spray S 98 Plant Edday 11-2 (C Horgan) drawn (3) 11 ran

PEPPERS looks the pick on her length that behind Pay Homage at Bath. She has run other good races, including when numer-tip to Debutante Days at Haydock the time before lest and ensuing home Star Precision at Notingham in the spring. (Gener Fation takes the mount. Moon Colory is on the upgrade judged on his second to Diego on his handicap debut at Lingfield and, even with his 10st - he gives Peppers 16 - rates the chief threat in a weak contest. Veronice Franco, who took manor honours behind Noting Doing and Saturday's Lingfield wanter Sapphire Son at Windsor two weeks ago - Victor Blust two and a half langths admit in fourth and 2th better - could also pose a threat.

Selection: PEPPERS

4.00 WARREN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added filles & ma 6f 189yds Penalty Value £2,924

65000- TIMES OF TIMES (223) (C) (b) (Ar A S Rad) 6 L Moore 4 10 0.

-00440] INDIAM (RELATIVE (15) (Ar May Mas) (a) (Access 4 10 0.

-00301 SHASHE (22) (CD) (Arc Anna L Sanders) Pat Machell 5 9 4.

-00000 PRIMED STRUES (28) (Ar Cay Janes M Janes 3 8 11.

-00000 PRIMED STRUES (28) (Ar Cay Janes M Janes 3 8 7.

-00000 PRIMED (25) (Ar Ca Rany) H Collegedge 3 8 7.

-00000 PRIMED (25) (Ar S A Valentica) R Alertica A 8 6.

-00000 PRIMED (25) (Ar Carsopher Lares R O'Sulven 5 7 13.

-00000 BARBRALLEN (34) (Air Peer J Men Met L Jeach 5 7 10.

-8 declared --8 

Adminum weight; 7st 10m, 7we handsap weight; Bothraden 7st.

BETTENES: 5-2 Indian Relative, 4-1 Remotestions, 5-1 Tachyetecks, 13-2 Chain Relative, 7-1 Delative, 8-1 Princetts, 10-1 Streets, 14-1 Time Of Times, 33-1 Statestion, 10-1 Streets, 14-1 Time Of Times, 33-1 Statestion, 10-1 Streets, 14-1 Time Of Times, 33-1 Statestion, 10-1 Streets, 14-1 Times Of Times, 13-1 Statestion, 10-1 Streets, 14-1 Times Of Times, 13-1 Statestion, 10-1 Streets, 14-1 Times Of Times, 13-1 Statestion, 10-1 Statesting, 10-1 Statesti

INDIAN RELATIVE, who shapes as though she will be suited by the return to seven furlongs, can doen her seasonal account. The selection, successful over five furlongs at Redox and, so at Bath, both in June of 1996, and a neck seconds to Clan Chief it the William Hill Spirit Cup at Goodwood in September, last ran over seven when that to Alemein at Catench the tive's two best turns from five outlines this term were to time before Heccar, moan receives 5 two best runs from the coungs this term were founds to Kicufien Lad at Lingfield in May and to Bayth at Baith the following month, keeping on at the one pace. She is on 10st but good appropries Maxim Dwyer Bakes off 3b. The combination might have most to fear from Runnbustlows, unplaced in her less two runs but a winner at Newmarket before that, producing a strong burst to narrowly defeat Langyme twinner of her two preceding races and successful since) and Sun Fauy a neck and a head.

Selection: INDIAN RELATIVE

(CLASS E) KENT MESSENGER GROUP MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS E)

בו	7,00	£4,500 added 1m 1f 149yds Penalty Val	toe £3,494
1	4-40	BEAR HUG (70) Our L G Latters; Lady Homes 4 10 0	A Clark 3
2	0-3240	LITERARY (20) (Shelin Mohammed) J Gosdan 3 9 5	
3	3400-0	DRAGON'S BACK (10) BAr Graham Pasquil) D C'Bnen 492	
4	-02232	SAMARA SONG (13) (Turton Builders)   Williams 48 12	K Fallon 4
5	550603	TEZAAB (13) (Mr Abdulla Saeed Thans) & Henbury 3 7 13	
6		COUNTRY THATCH (27) (Mrs 8 Summer) C Horgen 4 7 20	
7		ROSALEE ROYALE (4) DAr John Berryl John Berry 5 7 10	
8	000002	EXECUTIVE OFFICER (10) No B C Listo R Roser 4 7 10	

- 8 declared Minimum weight: 7st 10m. The handicap weights: Rousies Royale 7st 40, Executive Officer 6st 11th,
SETTENC: 9-4 Samara Song, 3-1 Liberary, 7-2 Yearsh, 5-1 Country Thatch, 13-2 Bear Hog, 8-1 Execotive Officer, 10-1 Desgrate Stack, 20-1 Resalve Royales
1996: Sava-id 3 9 10 Paul Eddery 11-4 it Goulder drawn (33 9 cm
FORM GUIDE

FORM SUBJE

SAMARA SONG looks possed to regimes a well-semed first success after times seconds and a third from his last four starts. Those races were at or around a role and the return to further should be to the four-year-old's liking, while Kieren Fallon, who parameted by Williams' charge when he ran Chascows Piyer to a langer at Vilindeer in June, is back in the saddle here. Survays Song might have meat to feer from Literary, unplaced in Reach's sade in Yamourth but tavourse when in the frame in her three races before trait, including a five-length Ayr second behind Dundel in June. Country Thirtch, who gained a place for the first time when third to Bastle Ground in a seller here lest time, might do bear of the others. Executive Officer finished a three-longth second to Michael Venture on the sand at Southwell—Dragon's Back beatin out of sign — but a 7to higher here. Selection: SAMARA SONG

4.45 "YORK KNAVESMIRE" HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 5f

405204 JOHNSTRO (4) (CD) J Golde 4 9 7 K Derfey 19 V - 0.0505 ANGRIER RECENTRICES (12) GP EMPGES 87 - A Derfey 19 V - 0.0505 ANGRIER RECENTRICES (12) GP EMPGES 87 - A Derfey 19 V - 0.0505 ANGRIER RECENTRICES (12) GP EMPGES 87 - A Derfey 19 V - 0.0505 ANGRIER RECENTRICES (12) GP EMPGES 98 - J Wester 20 222530 STOLEN RISS (10) (D) M W Enterty 5 9 8 - T Lucas 13 8 112265 WILLIAMS WELL (6) (CD) M W Enterty 5 9 8 - F Bottom 10 - 0.0505 A DEFE BOTTOM 10 - 0.0505

The Derby third Romanov is set to reappear in the Petros Rose Of Lancaster Stakes at Haydock Park

on Saturday, the colt's trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam

announced yesterday. Stablemate revoque is looking doubtful for deauville's Prix Jacques le Marois and may wait for Longchamp's Prix du Moulin.

# **Five-timer for McCoy** at Newton Abbot

noon when booting home a everybody. second career five-timer at odds of 120-1.

Martin Pipe-trained quartet Commanche Creek, Couchant, Totally Yours and Pond House. His other success was on Nashaat, saddled by Karl Burke In the opening race. Jack Berry yesterday warned

against cutting the number of fixtures with the "too much racing" debate once again oo the agenda. John Gosden has

headed renewed calls for a re- Southwell is fantastic - it production in the number of fixtures since the 1998 Fixture List was published last month with an increase of 14 meetings.

But Cockerham trainer Berry, who regularly has runners at all levels of Flat racing, said: You have to be very careful about calling for less fixtures it keeps jockeys, trainers and stablelads in a joh and most of them tove it. "We're in work which is

too, that the locals love it."

something to be grateful for and

John O'Shea, who has en- there has been racing on a joyed success during the summer jumping programme, said: can go out and spend £70,000 work."

Tony McCoy took Newton Ab- on a horse hut the race planbot by storm yesterday after- oers have got to cater for

Gosden criticised the fixture list for "perpetuating bad horses" hut O'Shea said: "Certain-The reigning champion jock-ey was successful aboard the ly in the summer jumping campaign 1 can't regall any bad or easy races - it's 2 en very successful with subst2 al fields successful with substa for competitive races avou have to consider the oppo, de end of the scale from the hig trainers. We have our owners to cater for and they want to run their horses.

Roy Bowring, who trains near Southwell's all-weather

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Double Oscar (Catterick 4.45) **NB: Admirals Secret** (Catterick 2.45)

vides opportunities for the lower grade horses, especially when the ground is frozen."

But he also called for a "rest day", particularly when racing takes place on a Sunday. "I I don't know if you can change think it is absolutely ridiculous things now. If people don't that stable staff are having to want to go to the meetings, they don't have to. Don't forget, does seem to me that Monday should be a blank day when

Sunday," he said.
But Berry disagreed. "At the "I think there is an important moment, lads get alternative market place out there for weekends off," be said. "It'd be trainers who haven't got 100 absolutely pointless them being horses. It's easy to say there's at home on a Monday when too much racing when you their families were out at

## RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

Home (Trainer/weight)	Coral	Willess Hill	Ladbrokes	Tota
Media Star (/ Gosden/7st9lb)	8-1	8-1	6-1	6-1
Puice (L Cument/7st12lb)	8-1_	10-1	10-1	10-3
Mohawk River (Trainer/weight)	14-1	12-1	10-1	11-1
Puriet (M Stouge/7st1.0b)	12-1	10-1	10-1	10-3
Three Cheers (J Gosdery8st9lb)	14-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
Heritage (M Stoute/8st4lb)	14.1	14-1	12-1	16-1
Bordi (D Weld(Irt)/9stGlb)	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Top Cees (Mrs J Ramstler/8st6lb	14-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Wille Conquer (R Alehusi/Ssi2ib)	12-1	26-1	16-1	16-1
Shaft Of Light Lord Hummatory75:113by	14-1	14-1	12-1	20-1

Prix de L'Arc d	ie Triomphe (1m	47)
Horse (Trainer)	Corel	William Hill
Holissio (E Lelicuche/Fr)	3-1	4-1
Swals (Seed bin Surpor)	6-1	5-1
Plisudski (M Stoute)	7-1	7-1
Peintre Calabra (A Fabre/Fr)	8-1	5-1
Singspiel (M Stoute)	10-1	7-1
Benny The Dip (J Gosden)	16-1	14-1
Depart King (A O'Bneryln	16-1	12-1
Each-way a quarter the odds, place	29 1, 2, 3 (Longchamp, S	unday, 5 October)

1998 2,000 Guineas (1m)											
Horse (frainer)	Coral	Willem Hill	Ladbrokes	Tota							
Designes Drawn (H Cecil)	6-1	6-1	6-1	5-1							
King Of Kings (A O'Bnen/iri)	14-1	12-1	- 10-1	10-1							
Central Park (P Cole)	12-1	20-1	14-1	12-1							
Haund (J Dunlop)	14-1	12-1	20-1	16-1							
Chester House (H Cecil)	25-1	20-1	20-1	20-1							
Xmer (A Fabre/Fr)	18-1	16-1	16-1	25-1							
Each-way a quarter the o	odas, plac	es 1, 2-3 (Newn	reviert, Saturday, 2	May)							

19	98 1,000 (	Guineas (1m)	
Horse (Trainer)	Corel	William Hill	Tota
Cape Verdi (P Chapple-Hy	am) 12-1	16-1	12:1
Shahrah (Saeed bin Suroc	r) 16-1	16-1	14-1
Embassy (D Loder)	16-1	20-1	20-1
Nationals (Speed but Surpor	25-1	16-1	20-1
Askrakaat (J Dunlop)	20-1	25-1	25-1
Each-way a quarter	the odds, places :	1. 2, 3 (Navmarket, Sunday	3 May)

## ANTERON ! HYPERION 2.15 Mowbray 2.45 Admiral's Secret 3.15 Swan Hunter 3.45 Myttons Mistake 4.15 More Than

Humber 3.45 Myttons mestates 1.15 master 1.15
You Know 4.45 Double Oscar
GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places, watered). STALLS: inside.
IRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 51, when stalls for side.
If Left-hand course, unablating and sharp.
If Course is NW of town on Abl 38. Darlington station 14m - hon service to course. ADMISSION: (Tub \$11; Tauerwalls \$7; Course \$2.50 (under 15a free into all enclosures). CAR PARKE.
Descripted area \$2, remainder Free.

Course \$2.50 (under 10s are mad an encasance).

Reserved ares \$2, remainder Prec.

BLINEERED PLEST TIME Donably Sharp (2.45).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-OISTANCE KUNNERS: Rose Of Glenn (2.45), Pardam (3.45) & Tymeera (4.45) sent 253 miles by 8 Pailing from Ystrad.

2.15 PONTEFRACT PARK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 270 7f N Carlisia 1

BETTING: 5-4 Montanay, 7-4 Zambers, 6-1 Marsenia, 12-1 Teorason, 20-1

BETTING: 5-4 Montanay, 7-4 Zambers, 6-1 Marsenia, 12-1 Teorason, 20-1

Betting: 10-11 Same Benter, 7-4 Marsenia, 13-2 Fozzak, 16-1 Salph Descar, 20-1 Ocean Brenza, 25-1 Bellineans

2.30: 1. MARTON MOSS (K Falton) 3-1:
2. Maguelon 5-6 tay, 3. Piguon 16-1. 8 ran.
2%, N. (f Easterby, Matton). Teter £5.40;
£1.80, £1.40. DF: £2.60. CSF: £5.84.
3.00: 1. BASHFUL BRAVE (P Roberts)
12-1: 2. Into Elements C. 12-1; 2. Imp Express 9-4 fav. 3. Rato Six-tysix 14-1. 15 ran. 4., 1. (8 Baugh, Unite \* THE INDEPENDENT

RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES PENTS 971 981 CATTERICK

FOLKESTONE 972 982

0891 261 970

RACING RESULTS

Piece 6, £8.77. Place o; £3.72.

NEWTON ABBOT

2.15: 1. NASHAAT (A P McCoy) 5-2; 2.

Persian Botterfly 9.1; 3. Irish Dominion
11:1.11 rst. 2-1 fev Fernan Court (4th), 114,
6, 18 Burke, Warragel. Tone: £3.30; £1.70,

### A C N G
### A

2.45 REDCAR, RIPON & THRSK' HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 5f 175yds

2.45 (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 5f 175yds

1 0-1540 BALIPOINT (40) AC G M Moore 4 10 0 Perture 4

6 11054 DMCNG CROUER (7) GDS R Moore 4 10 0 Perchada (7) 2

3 003343 DARRA (8) GD Berthal 4 9 Percent (7) 2

4 00600 1MM STREET BLUES (13) T Nextly 68 13 M Cardiale 6

5 -00551 ADMIRALS SECRET (8) (20) Verit 88 12 (4ac) Ref 15 6

6 600-6 MEZYM (13) (0) 1 Barks 8 89 C Lowther (5) 13

7 212155 HASDA IA VISTA (10) (0) M W Searchy 7 88 No. Parks (5) 10

8 00900 FRST BITE (17) M Hammond 58 68 K Darks (5) 10 8

260-50 CLASH OF SHORDS (66) P Calver 4 8 8 K Darks (5) 10

10 -00320 WRINTERADO (18) C Thomton 4.8 4 Duan McNerous 14

11 015304 ROSE OF GLENN (17) (20) 8 Pains 68 3 F Spanler 7

12 -03155 ROYAL CRICLES (13) (3) Wilstone 8 8 3 F Spanler 7

13 225410 RURAMARTYM 6801 (13) Parks 7 8 2 M Perston 12

4 042 DOLERY SHAMP (15) M Johnston 3 8 0 Financing 11 B

15 6562-0 KARRALAR (25) W Storty S 7 12 T Wilstone 8

16 0500 RESSANDY (70 M Pains 7 3 10 M Parks 7 8 10 M Parks 8

SETTING: 9-2 Demains Consider, 11-2 Admirals Secret, 6-1 Destro, 8-1 Hame Shoot Shame, 15-1 Hanch Le Wist, Wilstobago, 12-1 Ballpoint, 14-1 Kara
20-1 Clash Of Swords, 25-1 others

3.15 BEVERLEY WESTWOOD' SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m 7f 17fyds

2.15: 1. STRONG STUFF (Mr R welder)
9:12. Minlogh Galer 7-1; 3. Morchard Milhy 50-1. 9 ram. 4-5 fav Galenson Jame (Jeft.)
Dist, dist. (K Balley, Upper Lambourn). Tota:
£6590; £2200, £1.20, £8.40. DF. £22.90.
3.48: 1. COUCHANT (A P McCor) Evens
fav; 2. Welders 4-1; 3. Jerusoph 7-4, 10 ram.
2/h, 16. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: £3.10;
£1.20, £1.20, £1.40. DF. £7.80. CSF:
£6.62. NR. My Henvinski, 17cr £3.60.
4.16: 1. TOTALLY YOURS (A P McCor)
11: 10 far; 2. Alpha Leather 9-2; 3. Dubai
Doily 10-1. 8 ram. 5, 5, (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: £2.20; £1.50, £1.20, £4.90. DF.
£3.80. CSF: £7.29. Tricss: £34.35. Tho:
£14.70. NR: Galong Gurs.
4.46: 1. POND HOUSE (A P McCor) 7-4
fav; 2. Tungor Delight 33-2; 3. Halbam Parn
14.1.12 ram. 9, 3; (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota:
£3.90; £1.90, £11.00, £2.60. DF. £389.90.
CSF: £96.50, Tricss: £50.63. Trics £327.10;
£4.18.13 carried forward to Catteriols 4.45 today.

5.19: 1. REGAL ABSENCE (A Magnite) 49 5.18: 1. REGAL ABSENCE (A Maguire) 4-9 fer; 2. Royal Milet 3-1: 3. Maydridge Lady 12-1: 12-14.5, 8. (0 Mondoson, 1 emple Guire). Total £1.50; £1.10, £1.30, £4.00, DF: £1.90, CSF: £2.20. Trox £5.90. Placepot: £350.80. Quadpot: £47.40. Place 6: £1£5.01. Place 5: £47.79. CARLISLE

3.45 DONCASTER TOWN MOOR HANDICAP

17 SUDUZ Sack SPOUSE (say) by its generated as 8-Doministration as

- 17 declared 
SETIMS; 13-2 Sipsy Princess, 13-2 Hyttoes Mistake, 7-1 Fermidable Liz,
8-1 Sing With The Rand, 20-2 Dispot Diamond, Kambudg; 12-1 Knor Alhorss, Pathaza, Sea Spouse, 14-1 Abstone Quosa, Legis basse, My Godson, 18-1 Noodio Match, Super Park, 25 others

4.15 WETHERBY STEEPLECHASES' CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f

3 500001 Lingshif REPLY (USA) (35) (D) C Duyer 4 9 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Carroll 1
4 602202 MICOLA'S PRINCESS (15) 8 Michelon 4 8 12 \_\_\_\_ M Wighton 4
5 05 FORMAN (35) Ms V Access 3 8 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_ M Carliele 2
- 5 declared BETTIME: 9-4 Colden Themsorbolt, 5-2 Urgant Reply, 11-4 More Than You Russ, 4-1 Micola's Princess, 20-1 Rithhem

CARLISLE

8.20: 1. EURO SCEPTIC (R Winston) 6-1
co lav. 2. Spariny 6-1 co lav. 3. Running
Green 10-1: 14 ran. 6-1 co lav. 13. Running
Green 10-1: 14 ran. 6-1 co lav. Instantad
(ATV. 1, 2%. (Esaturby), Note: E5.00; E2.20,
E5.10. DF: E9.80. CSF: E55.88. 7ncost: E337.81. Trac 587.00.

8.50; 1. SELMINK ROSE (K Darley) Euros
lav. 2. Three Star Rated 16-1: 3. Rio 14-1.
9 ran. 74, 174. (Mast L Parratt), Total: E1.90,
E1.10, E4.80, E2.40. DF: E25.50. CSF.
£19.64. Tric: E52.70.

WINDSOR
6.06: 1. SUPER SPECIADE (F Tyren)
10.1; 2. Rocky Webers 20.1; 3. Ouziern 8-1;
4. Pc's Cruber 19-1, 19 ren. 11-2 tav Queen
Of Sternon. %, 3%, G Batingl. Tote: £19-90;
53.10, £5-00, £2-00, £2-00, £2-60.00,
CSF: £195.38. Trocke: £1,611.61. The:
£456.80: £135.33 contred towers to today.
6.36: 1. FWHYASTIC PLAME; S Sanders! 8-1;
2. Aerison Pete 10-1; 3. Stangeon 8-1, 15
ren. 11-10 for Eap Song (47th, 2, 2%, P
Melon). Tote: £7-30; £2-10, £3-80, £2-40.
DF: £220.20. CSF: £84.89. Tec: £96.50. WINDSOR

# McCain goes close in Leopardstown raid

rank heading into the final fur- sil, and his victory represented long. But Joanna Morgan had his most significant success in been biding her time on Nor- just his fourth season.

Ginger McCain went close to "I bought him at Newmarket scoring with his first runner in with the intention of winning a Ireland when Zuhair beat all ex-selling hurdle. Thankfully that cept Norwegian Blue in the plan went wrong, and I'd love £20,000 Joe McGrath Handicap to come back although I don't at Leopardstown yesterday. have many horses as good as Breaking fast for Willie Sup- Zuhair for the Flat," McCain ple, Zuhair heid a definite lead observed. Norwegian Blue is at halfway in the six-furlong con-trained on the Curragh by fortest and was still in the front mer amateur rider Martin Bras-

wegian Blue and drove the The season's leading trainer four-year-old to the front in the Aidan O'Brien scored with his last 100 yards to score by three two-year-olds Hopping Higgins quarters of a length with Best and Photogenic, who both outpaced their rivals.

# **PHILIPS**

ECOTONE



# Pick your team to take you to the World Cup Finals



hen the new league season opens on August 9th a vast array of footballing talent will be nn parade for the first time:

Arsenal and Chelsea have been the busiest clubs in the overseas market, with Marc Overmars the most expensive re-cruit. The two London clubs can be expected to mount a strong challenge. Liverpool and Newcastle United will also be fighting for the title.

However, Alex Ferguson's men will again be the team to beat. With the signings of Teddy Sheringham and Celio Sil-va from Brazil they are again the bonkmakers' favourites tn win the title.

Can you keep up with the changes? The Independent and Independent on Sunday are giving you the chance. With a budget of £40 million, can you come up with a team in top them all in the Premiership filis seasou?

## HOW TO ENTER.

Firstly you will need to pick your team formation, nf course there's your goalkeeper plus you have a choice of four formations for the others in your team.

FORMATION A. 4-4-2 4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers FORMATION B. 4-3-3
4 Defenders. 3 Midfielders, 3 Strikers

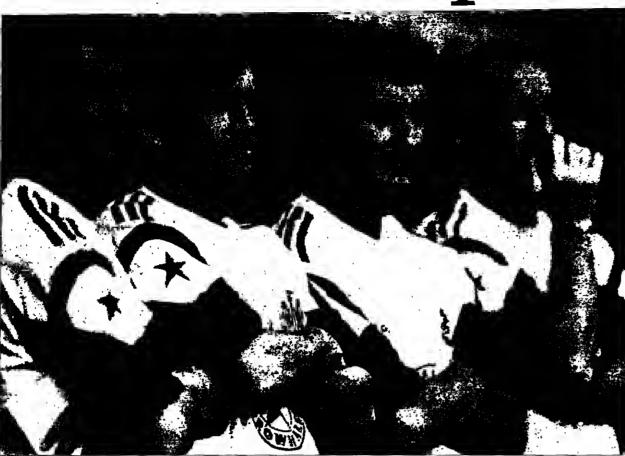
5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers FORMATION D. 3-5-2

3 Defenders,

Once you have chosen your formation and team name pick your team nf 11 players and 1 manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and their total value must ant go over £40millinn. Having made a note of your team dial our registration butline. Please try to use a tune telephone - one which makes tone noises when you dial, although pulse telephones can be used to register your team.

5 Midfielders,

2 Strikers



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The overall winner, the manager who at the end of the season accrues more points than any other will win a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. With a companion, they will see all the action of a quarter-final and semi-final of their chnice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring learn each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's

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# **HOW TO SCORE**

Every time one of your players score you get four addition. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e., if there is a one goal difference withe scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded I bours point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a passe judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the timeter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, eather scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

# INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

រាជ	E PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	COD	E PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE I	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)
sidn —														<del></del>			
}	GOALK	EEPER	S	455 Cox	Bol	2.5	560 Lundekvam	Sou .	1.2	679	Sharpe	Lee	3.5		Vhelan	Cov	3.0
300	Seaman	Arc		456 Ellint 457 Fairclous	Bol Bol	3.0	563 Scales 564 Camphell	Tot Tot	- 3.4 4.0	680	Riheiro Haaland	Lee Lee	1.5 2.5		luckerby oltvedt	Cov Cov	· 3.5 1.5
303	Lukic	Ars Ars	4.0 1.0	458 Taggart	3h Bol Bol	2.0 2.5	565 Calderwood	Tot	2.9	684	Parker	Let	2.5		ightbourne	Cov	1.5
304	Manninger	Ars	3.0	459 Bergsson	l Bol	1.5	566 Austin	Tot	2.2	685	Taylor	Lei	1.6	849 D	yer	Cry	2:0
305	Busnich	AV	4.0	460 Duberry	Chel	3.0	567 Edinburgh	Tot	1.6	686	Izzett	Lei	2.1		reedman	Cry	2.0
306 307	Oakes Watson	AV Bar	1.5 1.0	463 Petrescu	Che de Che	3.0 3.0	568 Carr 569 Mahhutt	Tot Tot	1.2 1.5	687	Lennon Guppy	Lei Lei	3.2 1.7		idah hipperley	Cry Cry	1.0 2.0
308	Lesse	Bar	1.0	465 Lebocuf	Che	5.0	570 Dicks	WH	3.5	689	Barnes	Liv	3.0		Vard	Der	2.5
309	Flowers	Bla	5.2	466 Sinclair	Che	2.5	573 Rieper	· WH	2.7	690	Redknapp	Liv	5.2	856 S	turridge	Der	5.0
330	Filan	Bla	1.5	467 Daish	Cov	27	574 Hall	WH	3.0	693	McMacaman	Liv	5.9		Vanchnpe	Der	3.0
333 334	Branagan De Gney	Bnl Che	1.2 1.0	468 Shaw 469 Burrows	Cnv Cnv	2.2 2.2	575 Potts 576 Ferdinand	WH WH	1.5 2.5	694 695	Thnmas Lennhardsen	Liv Liv	3.0 4.0	858 F 859 B	erguson armby	Eve Eve	6.5 4.5
335	Grndas	Che	1.0	470 Haworth		1.5	577 Impey	WH	2.2	696	Giggs	Man	7.4		eane	Lee	3.0
336	Ogriznvic	Cov	2.2	473 Edwarth	y CP	1.5	578 : Turner	WH	2.0	697	Beckham	Man	7.0	863 L	illey	Lee	1.5
337	Hedman	Cnv	1.0	474 Gordon	CP	2.0	579 Perry	Wim	4.0	698	Keane	Man	7.0		lasslehank	Lee	3.0
338 339	Nash Day	CP CP	1.0 1.0	475 Muscat 476 Tuttle	CP CP	1.0 2.0	580 Cunningham 583 Thatcher	Wim Wim	1.5 2.0	699 700	Bntt Poborski	Man Man	7.0 3.5		laridge leskey	Lei Lei	3.5 5.5
340	Poom	Der	1.2	477 Linighan	CP	2.0	584 McAllister	Wim	1.5	703	Lee	New	3.6		nwler	Liv	9.5
343	Hoult	Der	1.6	478 Roberts	CP	3.0	585 Kimble	Wim	1.5	704	Batty	New	3.8	868 B	erger	Liv	4.0
344	Southall	Eve	3.0	479 Hreidres		1.0	· ·	O - 17 TO		705	Gillespie	New	2.5		wen	Liv	2.5
345 346	Gerrard Martyn	Eve Lee	1.5 3.3	480 Stimac 483 C Pnwell	Der Der	3.3 1.8	MID	FIELD		706 707	Beardsley Ketshara	New New	2.0 2.0	)	choles ole	Man Man	6.0 6.2
347	Веспеу	Lee	1.2	484 Laursen	Der	1.5	600 Platt	Ars	2.5	708	Blinker	SW	2.5		nlskjaer	Man	7.0
348	Keller	Lei	2.5	485 Eranin	Der	2.5	603 Parlnur	Ars	2.4	709	Hyde	sw	1.8	875 S	heringham	Man	5.0
349	Ponle	Lei	1.5	486 Phelan	Eve	1.9	605 Vicira	Ars	4.5	730	Whittingham	SW	1.7		evland	Man	2.0
350 353	James Warner	Liv Liv	3.5 1.0	487 Shnrt 488 Watsnn	Eve Eve	3.0 2.7	606 Overmars 607 M Rodriguez	Ars Ars	6.0 2.0	733	Carbnne Magiltan	SW Snu	3.0 2.4		hearer sprilla	New New	10.0 7.4
354	Schmeichel	Man	5.5	489 Unsworth		3.0	608 Taylor	AV	1.9	735	Slater	Son	1.5		erdinand	New	5.0
355	Van Der Gnuv		1.2	490 Hinchelif		3.5	609 Thwosend	AV	3.2	. 736	Oakley	Snn	1.2	880 To	omasson	New	4.0
356	Given	New New	2.5	493 Bilic	Eve	4.0	630 Draper	AV	4.1	737	Anderton	Tht	6.0	883 G 884 H	ndjonsson	New	2.0 2.5
357 358	Hislnp Pressman	SW	2.5 3.0	494 Kelly 495 Wetheral	Lee l Lee	3.6 - 2.5 -	633 Marcelle 634 Bullnek	Bar Bar	2.0 1.2	738	Fnx Hnwells	Tot Tht	3.5 3.2		umphreys anth	She She	3.5
359	Taylnr	Snu	1.8	496 Molenaa:		2.5	635 Redfeara	Bar	1.5	740	Ginola	Tot	3.5	886 H	irst	She	3.5
360	Beasant	Sou	1.0	497 Dorign	Lee	1.2	636 Eaden	Bar	1.2	743	Sinton	Tot	3.0		e Tissier	Snu	7.0
363 364	Walker Bardsen	Tht Tht	3.4 1.0	498 Rnbertsn 499 Walsh	n Lee Lei	2.5 2.2	637 Tinkler	Bar	1.0 3.0	744 745	Nielsen Williamson	Tot WH	2.5 2.0		vans stenstad	Sou Sou	1.5 3.2
365	Miklosko	WH	1.5	500 Whitlow	Lei	1.2	638 Dnnis 639 Wilcnx	Bla Bla	3.9	746	Hughes	WH	2.0		rmstrong	Tot	5.9
366	Sullivan	Wim	2.7	503 Ellintt	Lei	1.2	640 McKinlay	Bla	2.2	747	Mnncur	WH	2.5	893 Iv	ersen	Tht	<b>4</b> .0
	Depe	DERS		504 Watts	Lei	: 1.6	643 Sherwond	Bla	3.4	748	Bishop	WH	2.5		artsnn	WH	5.0
	DEFE	TDEKS		505 Wright 506 Ruddock	Liv Liv	3.0 3.0	644 Fliteroft 645 Frandsen	Bla Bol	3.0 1.5	749 750	Berkovic Lomas	WH WH	2.5 3.0		itsnn oldswnrth	WH Wim	3.5 3.5
400	Dixnn	Ars	2.5	507 Harkness		1.2	646 Thompson	Bol	2.8	753	Jones	Wim	2.8		knku	Wim	4.0
403	Upson	Ars	2.0	508 Kvarme	Liv	2.5 2.5	647 Pnllock	Bol	1.2	754	Earle	Wim	3.1	898 G	ayle	Wim	4.0
404 405	Petit Grimendi	Ars Ars	4.2 2.7	509 Bjornehy 530 Matten	e Liv Liv	3.0	648 Sellars 649 Guliu	Bnl Che	1.5 4.4	756	Ardley Fear	Wim Wim	2.0 2.0	899 E	iell	Wim	1.5
405	Winterburn	Ars	2.5	533 McAteer		3.7	650 Di Matteo	Che	5.0	757	Hughes	Wim	2.0	}	MANA	GERS	
407	Bould	Ars	2.5	534 G Neville	Man	4.2 4.2	653 Wise	Che	3.7								_
408	Adams	Ars	4.5	535 P Neville		4.2 2.5	654 Newton 655 P Hughes	Che Che	2.4 1.0		STRI	KERS		900 W	enger .	Ars	7.5
409 430	Kenwn Staunton	Ars AV	4.5 3.0	536 Irwin 537 Pallister	Man Man	3.0	656 Babeyaro	Che	3.0	. 800	Bergkamp	Ars	 7.5		ttle ilson	AV Bar	5.0 2.0
433	Southgate	ΑV	5.2	538 May	Man	3.5	657 Telfer	Cov	1.8	803	Wright	Ars	7.2	905 H	ndgsnn	Bla	5.0
434	Ehingu	AV	3.0	539 Jnhnsen	Man	3.5 3.5	658 Richardson	Cov Cov	2.4	804 805	Bnamorte Per Yorke		2.0	906 To	dd	Bol	5.0 2:5 4.5
435 436	Nelson Wright	AV AV	1.2 3.0	540 Silva 543 Alhert	Man New	3.3 4.1	659 McAllister 660 Şalako	Cov .	3.0 2.4		Joachim	AV AV	6.7 2.4		ullitt rachan	Che Cov	4.5 3.0
437	Scimeea	ΑV	2.2	544 Howey	New	3.7	663 Johansen	Cov	2.0	807	Collymnre	AV	8.1		racuan ippell	Cry	2.0
438	Grayson	ΑV	2.2	545 Peacnck	New	3.0		- Der	1.2		Wilkinson	Bar	1.2	930 Sn	aith	Der	2.0
439	Muses	Bar Bar	1.5	546 Barton 547 Beresfore	New 1 New	3.3 2.2	665 Asenovic 666 D Powell	Der Der	3.0 1.2	809 830	Hendrie Hristny	Bar Bar	1.5	933 Ke	endall	Eve	2.5
440 443	Appleby Thompson	Bar	2.0 1.0	547 Beresford 548 Blondeau		2.2	667 Van Der Laan	Der	: 1.6	833	Sutton	Bla	1.5 4.5	934 Gr 935 O'	raham Neill	Lee Lei	3.5 4.5
443 444	Krizan	Bar	1.0	549 Nolan	SW	1.9	668 Daily	Der	1.2	834	Gallacher	Bla	3.0		ads	Liv	7.0
445	Berg	Bla	3.4	550 Atherton	S₩	1.9	669 Hunt	Der	2.0	835	Dahlin	Bla	4.0	937 Fe	rguson	Man	9.0
446	Le Saux	Bla	5.0	553 Walker	S₩	2.5	670 Parkinson 673 Grant	Eve .	1.8 2.2		McGinlay Blake	Bnl Bnl	2.2	938 Da	alglish	New	<b>7.0</b> .
447	Coleman	Bla	3.0 4.4	554 Stefanovi 555 Newsome		1.6 1.5	674 Farrelly	Eve	2.0		Zola	Bnl Che	2.7 9.0		eat	She Snu	4.0
448	Hendry Kenna	Bla Bla	1.9	556 Monkou	Sou	1.7	675 Stuart	Eve	2.5	839	Vialli	Che	3.5		nes ancis	Tot	2.5 4.5
449 450	Kenna Heneboz	Bla	2.0	557 Dodd	Sou	2.5	676 Speed	Eve	2.7	840	M Hughes	Che	4.4	944 Re	dknapp	ŴĤ	3.3
453	Valery	Bla	3.0	558 Benali	Sou	1.5	677 Bowyer	Lee	3.0	843 844	Tore Andre Fl		3.0	945 Ki	ппеат	Wim	4.5
454	Andersson	Bla	2.5	559 Van Gnbl	bel Sou	1.5	678 Wallace	Lee	1.8	440	Dublin	Cov	3.5	1			

re shall be credited. 49/08/97 to 07/09/97 Mouth 2: 68/09/97 to matches count leverals the best managers the UK and Republic of Ireland independent on Sun102/18/97 Mouth 2: 62/18/97 to 02/11/97 Mouth to be leveral for the season and the first top wader 15 must be able to prove
to the World Cop 4: 69/11/97 to 34/11/97 Mouth 5: 01/12/97 to prine. No cop or International counts are count and season from purent or gracel
term manager where 28/12/97 Mouth 6: 29/12/97 to 25/01/98 Mouth
11. Texm selections once made, support 5e ated and ask permission from purent.

Let's make things better

6 PHILIPS

المكذا من الاجهل

a foils Kent

Wisser make ap

Cricket

HENRY BLOFELD reports from Colchester Essex 533-8 dec Leicestershire 515-9 Match drawn

Maybe, when Lord MacLaurin has done his best to put English cricket back on course, he could turn his attention to trying to eliminate this son of match from the general scheme of things. As Essex were one of the sides concerned, he would probably find any scheme blocked by powerful local interests, claiming too much excitement on a fourth day is a bad thing.

Essex had batted on until near the end of the second day, 60 overs having been lost to the weather. Leicestershire's only hope after that was to try to avoid the follow-on and an innings defeat. On an extremely slow pitch they achieved their objective.

It goes without saying that this last day was excruciatingly horing. Peter Such took his tally of overs for the innings to 86, which constituted the largest number of balls ever bowled in a Championship innings, beating the 52-year-old Alfred Shaw's 100.1 five-ball overs for Sussex against Nottinghamshire in 1895. You cannot get much more exciting than that.

At the start, Leicestershire needed 68 more to avoid the folNixon to a good low catch at short midwicket by Nasser Hus-sain off Paul Grayson from a hall which seemed to bounce a fraction more than most. Ben Smith and David Millns then took the score to 397 for 7 by lunch and their stand in all to 139 in 51 overs.

It was all slow-motion cricket, and when Millns was given out caught behind off Jonathan Powell (off-break) - this was Powell's first first-class wicket - they had put on 139 in 51 overs. Smith then came to his hundred before Matthew Brimson was ninth out lbw pushing forward to Grayson.

Fourteen were still needed to aven the follow-on, but as it was already mid-afternoon that had already become an academic point. The last pair batted for an hour and a half adding 45 runs, Smith hatted for six and a half hours, Such's final figures were 86-49-94-4 and the Leicestershire innings lasted for 210 overs.

News filtered through from the pavilion during the afternoon that Paul Prichard at lunch had offered to set Leicestershire a target of 225 to win in 55 overs if they declared their second innings at the interval. The Leicestershire captain, James Whitaker, declined because apparently lain Sutcliffe (cracked rib) and Neil Johnson (damaged ankle ligaments) would only have batted in an emergency. But then faint hearts never won anything, or deserved to either.



Ben Hollioake takes his last look at schoolboy cricket yesterday. Hollioake, who takes his place with the senior England team on Thursday, scored 59 not out at Southampton in the Under-19 victory against Zimbabwe Photograph: Peter Jay

## low-on. They soon lost Paul Rain foils Kent's contrived finish White leads

ADAM SZRETER

Worcestershire 422 and 174-3 Kent 276 and 158-4 Match drawn

A thoroughly frustrating day, brought to a close shortly after 3.30pm by rain and bad light, put paid to a match cursed by the weather since the outset. Kent might have gone top had they won, but in a sense the heavens ensured that justice prevailed.

After struggling to avoid the follow-on on Saturday, Kent were offered a contrived finish by the Worcestershire captain. Tom Moody, who clearly felt his bowlers would not have been up to the task had Kent only been hatting for a draw.

The joke bowlers provided

Sussex have made a "substan-

tial" one-year offer to Shane

Warne for him to be their over-

seas player next season. The

county's chief executive, Tony

Pigott, who also revealed that

the coach, Desmond Haynes, is

to leave the county at the end

of the season, say they are ex-

pecting an answer from Warne

"A substantial offer has been

made to Shane Warne and we

are bound to face a hit of com-

petition, hut I've had talks with

him directly and I am pretty op-

Discussions with Warne were

set up through Sussex's former

after the Ashes tour.

timistic," Pigott said.

non

Worcestershire with a further 92 runs in the morning, enabling them to set Kent a target of 321 from a minimum of 80 overs. Graeme Hick, 56 not out overnight, did not resume his innings owing to a badly bruised

finger. Kent set off in pursuit and lost Ed Smith at 27, caught high in the gully off Phil Newport. Trevor Ward and Alan Wells then put on 61, but shortly after lunch Ward played on to a well pitched-up delivery from

Mirza, making his dehut, is the 19-year-old brother of Parvaz Mirza, the former Worcestershire bowler who died of a heart attack last September aged 24. Maneer Mirza has a smooth action and looks a use-

skipper Tony Greig, who now works in the media in Australia.

The West Indian all-rounder

Vashert Drakes is Sussex's cur-

After Ward had departed, Wells and Graham Cowdrey kept Kent on course, but like so many before them in this match, they perished just when they looked set to take control.

Cowdrey weat first, for 21, caught at slip by Vikram Solan-ki off Moody. Wells had just smashed Gavin Haynes over extra cover for four when he flashed at an away-swinger from the same bowler and was tak-

en at first slip by Moody.
At 158 for 4 the game was nicely poised, but then the rain came and ruined everything. For Worcestershire, in particular, this summer has been one sodden match after another; Kent, meanwhile, meet Essex at Canterbury tomorrow in a game that should, weather permitting, have a significant bearing on the

the fifth Test against Australia

at Trent Bridge. The England-seamer was unable to bowl for

Yorkshire in their County

Championship outcome. Sussex make approach to Warne

> rent overseas player, but his Championship match against Northamptonshire at Headintwo-year contract expires at gley yesterday. the end of the season. The role of Haynes, coach for He had a fitness check in the the last two years, has been difnets and reported some disficult to define since Pigott comfort, and the England physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, who also acts for Yorkshire, is retook a more hands-on approach in recent weeks. Terms porting the situation to Lord's. are now being negotiated for a settlement of the final 12. The problem is believed to be inflammation, but Morton said months of the former West Inthat Gough would report as nor-mal with the rest of the England dies captain and opening bats-

man's contract. Darren Gough will have treatment on a sore knee before

# Yorkshire to victory

**ROUND UP** 

Craig White, the Yorkshire allrounder, collected Championship-best bowling figures of 5 for 31 to clinch a dramatic 36-run victory over Northamptooshire at Headingley yesterday.

At the start of the last day, the visitors required 135 with one wicket down and appeared to have the advantage but, on an unreliable pitch, White exerted a match-winning influence. He undermined the Northamptonshire innings with an opening hurst, which brought him three wickets for five runs in the space of 17 balls.

There was some late resistance from the Leeds-hnro wicketkecper David Ripley, who top-scored with 3J off 72 balls, but his 82-minute vigil was ended by Chris Silverwood, and White polished off the tail.

The Nottinghamshire allrounder Chris Tolley hit his highest score to frustrate the Championship leaders, Glamorgan, at Colwyn Bay and earn his side an unlikely draw. Tolky, who scored 73 off 162 balls, found willing support first from Wayne Noon and then James Hindson and succeeded in defying Glamorgan's efforts to dislodge him.

Kent's hopes of a run chase to strengthen their challenge were dashed by rain when they were almost half way towards a target of 321 against Worcestershire at

# Jayasuriya cashes in on conditions

TONY COZIER

reports from Colombo India 537-8 dec Sri Lanka 322-1

It was Sri Lanka's turn to enjoy the sweets of the perfect pitch and Sanath Jayasuriya and Roshan Mahanama hatted through the entire third day of the opening Test against India vesterday.

By the time it was over, they had added 283 for the second wicket, the most for any wicket in the 75 Tests Sri Lanka have played since their elevation to top status in 1982, and the total was an imposing 322 for 1. Even so they were still behind

Indian's first innings by 215.
The left-handed Jayasuriya followed his 3 for 45 with his leftarm spin in India's prolonged occupation over the first two days with his third and highest Test hundred to be 175 at close. Mahanama, the tall correct righthander, was 115, his fourth hundred. Neither gave a chance and neither looked like getting out throughout another sunny, hat six and a quarter hours against India's spin-based attack.

Jayasuriya was the more assured, striking 20 fours, most with cuts and sweeps in an unblemished display. The swashbuckling six-hitter of the one-day game was transformed into the textbook Test opener and did not raise one ball off the ground

Alistralia – First Imilias 323 (8 P Aufan 71, S R Waugh 62; A R Caddick 5-54). SOMERSET – Second Innings 147-3.

Gloucestershire v Pakistan A

BRISTOL: No play yesterday. Match drawn. GLOUCESTERSHIRE - First Innings 1671M

C ) Ball 50, T H C Hancock 50; Shoesh Aichter

PAKISTAN A - First legings 220 (Hagen Raze

204-5 (N.) Trainor 89, M.) Church 53).

SOUTHAMPTON: England won by 8 wick-

63, Javed Quider 51; M W Alleyne of Court Street Court of the Court of

Unspires: M.J. Kitchen and R. Paimer.

One-day International

**England v Zimbabwa** 

5-62, Abdul Razzak 4-331.

throughout his long vigil. Only fatigue, understandable since he was on the field from the very first ball, slowed his progress and he intermittently ate bananas, drank water and had his tiring forearms massaged by the team's physiotherapist.

Mahanama had one or two anxious moments, none more so than when umpire Steve Randell refused a justifiable claim for low off the new, tall left-arm spinner Nilesh Kulkarni when he was 45. There were also a couple of narrow shaves, but the bowlers were having no joy.

The quality of the pitch once

more brought into question the future of Test cricket in this part of the world. Over the first two days, Sidhu, Tendulker and Azharuddin gathered hundreds for India with as much ease as Jayasuriya and Mahanama did and the one-sided contest had been condemned to a meaningless draw even before it was half-way through. No wonder no more than 1,500 speciators have turned up at the Premadasa Stadium for any of the days while 35,000 crammed the same venue less than two weeks ago to watch Sri Lanka thrash India in the Pepsi Asia Cup one-day final. INDIA -- First inclings: 637 for 8 dec SRI LANKA -- First ionlogs

S Jayusunye not out M Atapatru c Monga b Kuligami . R Menanama not out Extras (th1, b1, nb4) \_\_\_\_

Extras (b6, w7, nb6).

ENGLAND UNDER-19

"A Firstoff not out .

Extras (82, w9, nb4)

Did Not Bat: I A Engstrecht. Bowling: Tudor 5-0-24-1: Sidebottom 4-0-33-3; Hollioake 5-0-28-1; Cosker 4-1-27-0;

Potal (for 2, 213 overs) \_\_\_\_\_\_157
Path 1-16, 2-17.
Did Not Bat: S D Peters, Z C Morts, G J Bat-

ty, TC R M Read, A J Tudor, II A Coster, R J

Hoffman 5-0-36-0; McCoun 4-0-36-0; Engelbreck 3-0-30-0; Vermuelen 2-0-18-0

Today's fixtures SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: (First day of

fourl: Southempton: Hampshire v Glouces

MENOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (First

day of two): Finchemampsteed: 8e

ing: Steyn 4-0-29-1; Made 3.3-1-6-1:

Batty 5-0-18-0; Morns 2-0-20-2.

D J G Sales c Hoffman b Nicela & C Holliophie not out ......

# Saints pounce as Penrith lose sight of target

Rugby League

WYN GRIFFITHS Penrith Panthers

Shaun McRae, the St Helens

coach, wore a broad smile for the first time in the World Club Championship after his side grabbed a lifeline with yesterday's defeat in Penrith.

The six-point defeat means that, unless Halifax performed miracles and beat Brisbane Broncos at Thrum Hall last night, Saints would stay in fourth place on points difference and take part in a play-off against the Pool B winners, Paris St-Germain, at Knowsley Road on Wednesday week to decide the last quarter-final place.

Saints, who have failed to win a match in the tournament, had only a margin of 10 points with which to secure a last-eight herth, hut McRae had an inkling that Penrith's need to win by 46 points to make the knock-out stages might work in his side's favour.

"I said at half-time that maybe if, with 20 minutes to go, they were not in with a chance of beating us by 46 points, they might relax a hit and we could get back in the fray," McRae said. "This is the first time I've been able to put a smile on my face when we've been beaten."

He added: "It looked like Penrith might run away with the game but my guys showed a lot of pride and character to come back. We had to do a lot of soulsearching after the humiliation in Auckland and I'm really happy for the guys. It's a pleasing way to leave the country, even if we didn't win."

Bobbie Goulding, the Saints captain, said the team had targeted Penrith as the weakest of their opposition in Pool A.

"We knew when we came out here that the two games against Cronulla and Auckland would be very difficult but we also knew from the game against Penrith back home that we could heat them," he said.

"The lads are made up. Now we've got Paris at home and hopefully we'll beat Brisbane or Auckland away. We can't win the European Super League, so we're going to go all out to get in the quarter-finals." Penrith at one stage led

32-10, hut committed a series of handling errors as they went full-blooded for their target. St Helens stayed in touch

with first-half tries from Anthony Sullivan and Andy Haigh, hut it needed a dramatic touchdown six minutes from the end by the stand-off Sean Long to clinch the decisive deficit for them. Their other try-scorers were Danny Arnold and Keiron Cunningham, with Goulding kicking three goals.

# **Testing day for British boats**

STUART ALEXANDER

reports from Cowes On a difficult day for the threeboat British team in the Admiral's Cup, there was the

additional problem of a protest hanging over their heads. But after two hard thrashes up and down the breezy, gear-testing waters of Christchurch Bay, they were hanging on to second place overall. The Americans were stretching out ahead of them, the New Zealanders

breathing down their necks. Britain's best hope of valuable points. Tim Barratt's 36ft Bradamante, faced a complaint from Italy's 40-footer Brava, New Zealand's Mean Machine had a problem with Graham Walker's 45-foot Corum Indulgence, and the Americans on Flash Gordon took exception to Tony Buckingham's 40-foot

Easy Oars. The Bradamante incident occurred after John Merricks and Ian Walker had recovered from the disappointment of a wipe-out on the first spinnaker run of the first race when lying joint first and then battled their way back up to third. Brava was also protesting

against Georgia Express for the same incident as Bradamante, although the skipper David Barnes took a precautionary 720-degree penalty turn. It was not his day as, in the second race, he lost the halyard

for his mainsail and had first to sail only with a small jib, then rig a storm trysail in order at least to finish and so save 1.25

That was more than Norway's King Harald was able to do on his 40-footer Fram, which, because of mast problems, could not compete in the second race of the day as the breeze piped up to 26 knots and hovered just north of east.

Chris Law, skipper of Corum Indulgence, was spitting at losing third place in the first race of the day by just six seconds, first to Jochen Schumann of Germany in Rubin, then to Flash Gordon.

The American 49-footer is locked in a battle not just with New Zealand's Numbers, hut hetween the two pairings of Kenny Read and Jim Brady, and Russell Coutts and Brad Butterworth. The Americans, who lost the America's Cup to the Kiwis, are determined not to be knocked out of the Admiral's

Cup. First blood went to Numbers. as Flash fizzled to f arth, but the Americans won the return by 43 seconds from Numbers as Corum Indulgence, despite having a less tidy race, took a welldeserved third.

Helping New Zealand's charge up the points table were two wins by Tom Dodson in Mean Machine, although Britain's Easy Oars scored a fifth and then a third after leading for some time.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football (7.30 unless so Scottisk League Second Division Clydebenk v Brechin

Third Division

Berwick v Alice East Stirling v Ross County

FRIENDLY MATCHES; Aylesbury v Luton XI; Beshley v Plymouth XI; Bishop's Stortlord v Hitchin: Bootle v Morecembe; Boreham Wood v Washord XI; Bradford City v Sambs (Bra) (7.45); Congleton v Stoles XI; Crawley v Portsmouth XI (7.45); Doncaster v Sheffield Wednesday XI; Gravesand v Dover; Hendon v

Rushden & Diamonds; Manchester United v Stone Prague (8.0); Marine v Cresse XI; Moor Green v Nathampton XI; Peterborough v Lecester (7.45); Saltach v Torquay XI; VS Rugby v Sheffield Uni XI; Witney v Reading XI; Northwood v Matchenhead; Cadrol City V Food; Woknigham v Hayes; Portadown v St Patrick's Athletic; Hamow Borough v Stevenage (7.15) Kingstonian v Assenal XI.

Ringby Longine STONES SUPER LEAGUE: London Broncos v Oldhem (7.30).

Other sports TENNS: LIA Sagelite (Southies

BOWLS: First men's Under-25 Test: England v Australia (Stratford-on-Avon); EWBA Walk-er Cup (Learnington).

Just what your business needs, more free time.

Turn to page 15.

### **Britannic Assurance County Championship** Final day of four Essex v Leicestershire

COLCHESTER: Metch drawn, Essex 900 ESSEX - First innings 533 for a dec (5 G Law 175, N Hussain 128, A P Grayson

LEICESTERSHIRE - First librings (Seturday: 316-6) 8 F Smith not out . P A Nixon c Hussain b Grayson M T Bornson low b Greyson ... Extras (b17, b10, nb14)...

Total (for 9, 210 overs) ... Falt: 7-330, 8-469, 9-470. Score at 120 overs: 6-315 Bowling: Cowen 14-2-59-1; kard 9-1-25-1: Such 96-49-94-4; Powell 39-5-109-1; Grayson 38-16-81-2; D R Law 17-1-94-0; S G Law 7-0-26-0

Umpires: T E Jesty and B Leadbester."



LIVE COMMENTARY 0891 881 485 COUNTY

ROUND UP 0891 525 075 Clamoreun v Notts Nottinghamshire won toss MRE-First landings 202 (M CLAMORGAN - First Innings 353 for 5 dec S P James 162)

C M Tolley nox out I'W M Noon ibw b Butcher K P Evans b Butcher 

Did Not Bet: M N Bowen. Den Not one in in power.

Bowling: Wager 19-3-62-1; Croft 30-5-52-3; Watkin 18-8-27-1; Thomas 15-2-65-1; Butcher 9-2-19-2; Mayrard 1-0-1-0

Umpires: H D Bird and G Sharp.

Worcestershire v Kent WORCESTER: Main's drawn. Worces-tershire 11pts, Kent 9 Worcestershire won toss

WORCESTERSHIRE - First Innings 422 (D A Leatherdale 129, V S Solanid 61, T M Moody 60, D W Headley 4-102). KENT - First houngs 276 (M A Enham 56) WORCESTERSHIRE - Second Innings (Seturday: 82-3) G A Hick retd hurt

(Selurany: 255
(Selur

Total (for 8, 92 overs) 239
Fall: 1-8, 2-14, 3-26, 4-32, 5-74, 6-110, 7-156, 8-159. Extras (b4, 05, w2, nb16) . Total (59.3 overs) ...... 85, 3-100, 4-100, 5-109, 6-143, 7-169, 8-174, 9-176. Boulet Sherwood 14-3-32-1: White 12.3-

1-31-5; Stamp 27-4-59-2; Vaughan 15-2-40-1; Lehmant 1-0-5-0. Uampires: V A Holder and R Julan.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Felt: 1-27, 2-88, 3-133, 4-158.
Did Not Bat: A P Igglesden, P A Strang, \*15
A Marsh, D W Headiny, J & D Trompsolo
Bowfing: Newport 14-4-33-1: Crepman 50-30-0; Haynas 8-2-32-1; Mizz 9-2-22-1;
Moody 12-3-40-1
Umpfrest: J II Bond and J H Hams. Yorkshire y Northants HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire (20 pts) beet Northeraptunshire (6) by 36 rams

squad to Trent Bridge today and

have further treatment.

Vortettire won toss YORKSHIRE - First Innings 168 U P Tay-Warwicks [8] 11 4 1 - 6 20 31 128 lor 6-45). NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - First Innings 286 (K M Curren 63, R J Barley 61; C E W Saver-wood 4-82). YORKSHIRE - Second Innings 332 (C White 57; R J Blakey 51) HORTHAMPTONSHIRE - Second Innings

Southampton yesterday, reach-

ing his 50 by driving one ball

Yet Hollioake was still over-

shadowed by his captain Andrew

Fliatoff, as England charged to

eight-wicket Under-19 victory

against Zimbabwe - and a 2-0

win in the NatWest one-day in-

for his probable Test debut

against Australia on Thursday,

Lancashire's Flintoff smashed

While Hollioake warmed up

clean out of the ground.

ternational series.

N'assets (16)...11 2 3 6 17 31 98 Numbers (18)...11 2 4 5 14 33 94 (1995 positions in brackets) **Tour matches** Somerset v Australia

Lances (15) ....11 2 4 4 23 30 112 Wores (7) .....10 2 1 7 25 30 113 Som'set (11) 10 2 2 6 23 37 110 Surrey (3) ....11 2 3 6 24 31 185 Hamis (14) ....11 2 3 6 28 25 103

max (125 ... 11 0 6 5 15 40 70

liveries to spare in a match stark.

reduced to a 25-over thrash by

Flintoff and Hollioake, who

came together at 17 for 2 in the

sixth over, put on 140 in just 16

ZIMBABWE
D A ManBer c Peters b Tudor \_\_\_\_\_\_41
L S Marloch-Brown c Betty b Mores \_\_\_\_40 T Manouses e Shah b Morre

M A Vermuelen b Sidebottom . A P Hoffman c Firetoff b Hofficeles .. †C Detoort b Sidebottom

Under-19

Hollioake bows out in style Ben Hollioake hit 59 not out at 72 not out from just 43 balls, as world, and the inexperienced England overhauled Zimbab- and under-strength Zimbab-

> But Surrey's 19-year old allrounder said: "Given the choice of sitting around today, or playing in a match situation, I would obviously have chosen some match practice It's a great feel-Hollioake, who earlier took ing to know I'm going to Trent 1 for 28 from five overs, must Bridge for my first Test, and 1 now try to step up to the big boy have positive thoughts after stuff-and the gulf between the doing well against Australia in Aussies, the best team in the the Texaco Trophy."

16,000

\$180,000 for her victory in the Du Maurier Classic in

# TODAY'S we's 156 for nine with 21 de- .wean side could not be more

NUMBER

The number of dollars [£9,800] that golfer Colleen Walker won on the LPGA circuit last year. On Sunday she took the winner's prize of



# Youthful Watson prepares for his senior service

Champions' League debut." screamed one of the morning headlines. Steve Watson could not help the wry smile as he pulled on his boots for training.

The afternoon he became the youngest first-teamer in Newcastle United's history, the hc happens to be one himself. Magpies stooped to 19th place in the old Second Division. Their share offer was falling some £7m short of its £8m target and Jim Smith, the old Bald Eagle, was hanging on to the manager's job by his claws.

"Things have changed a bit since then," Watson mused as he scanned the line-up from the November day in 1990 when he made his debut as a 16-year-old substitute at Molineux.

Rather than fretting over the form and fitness of Wayne Fereday. Darren Bradshaw and Scott Sloan and whether the next season would bring trips to Darlington and Hartlepool, turmoil for Newcastle's manager these days means working towards a European Cup tie with the inconvenience of having the world's most expensive player on the injured list.

The last few seasons we've

Watson acknowledged. "And a blow like Alan being injured has rocked everybody because he's the best striker in the country.

Watson would not dispute that Alan Shearer is also the best striker nurtured by Wallsend Boys Club, although

It was as a centre-forward that he joined Newcastle on YTS forms and his curriculum vitae includes not so much leading the line as being the line in a European tie. "The lone forager," he recalled of his role as Andy Cole's emergency stand-in in the Basque cauldron of Athletic Bilbao's San Mames stadium three years ago.

Watson, however, will not be offering his services as a temporary replacement for Shearer when Croatia Zagreh visit Tyneside for the opening leg of Newcastle's Champions' League qualifying tie next Wednesday night.

At the grand old age of 23, the veteran St James' Park servant (only Steve Howey has been on the books longer) hopes his days as the ultimate jack-of-all football trades are finally over. Watson broke into the first team as an attacking midfielder Simon Turnbull talks to Newcastle's long-serving defender who believes the picture at St James' Park is not as black and white as it is painted

"I played alongside Darren Peacock at Arsenal against Dennis Bergkamp and Ian

Wright and I came off the pitch

thinking that was as satisfied as

I'd been with my game in a long

too. Watson's form at the heart

of a formerly suspect defence

was a notable feature of the un-

beaten 10-game run to the end

of last season which qualified

Newcastle as England's runners-

up representatives in Europe's

Clark, have made way for new

recruits. Watson has been re-

warded with a four-year contract

that will take his senior service

up to the 10-year mark - and en-

Such a scenario seemed un-

likely in the extreme in the ear-

ly days of his working life under his third manager. Kevin Kee-

fore his 27th birthday.

Kenny Dalglish was satisfied

and won his 12 England Under-21 caps as a right-back. He has, in fact, played in every outfield position for his home club. And there are those in the Newcastle dressing-room who reckon he qualifies as having kept goal too, citing a diving save that stopped a Tony Dorigo shot but conceded a penalty to Leeds at St

James' three years ago.
"Actually," Watson said, "I
was a goalkeeper with the Wallsend district team at school. I can remember we got ham-mered by Newcastle schools in one game. They had Robbie El-liott and Lee Clark in their side.

"I was a centre-forward when I signed for Newcastle United but I didn't play many games for the youth team up front. They played me at centre-half virtually straight away and six years and about eight different positions later. I've ended up at centre-half again. I really do enjoy playing

"I said to Stevie in the dress-

ing-room: 'You're playing full-back against Pat Nevin today'," Keegan recalled. "Just show him inside because he'll want to go outside you.

"After five minutes he just let Nevin go inside him, Nevin crossed the ball and they were 1-0 up. After 10 minutes he did the same thing. He thought I meant let him go inside rather than just make him try to go inside instead of down the wing.

"We came in 2-1 down at half-time and I said to him: 'Get your boots off. Get in the shower. You'll never play full-back for me again'.

Champions' Cup.
While two long-serving
Geordie likely lads, Elliott and "He went in the shower and the physic came to me and said someone was injured. So I went in the shower and said: 'Right. come on, get your books on. Get back out and play'. Stevie just said: 'Great'. He put his boots title him to a testimonial - beback on and went out and played like a full-back."

Keegan came to value Wat-son's talent, and to utilise his re-

gan's opinion of him turned full great athlete," was the ulticircle in the 90 minutes of a mate Keegan verdict. I never home match against Tranmere saw Duncan Edwards play, but people in the game keep telling me he reminds them of him."

Daiglish was so struck by Watson's maturity the first time he saw him in action - on a scouting trip to watch Brighton, Liverpool's forthcoming FA Cup opponents, in January 1991 - he laughed at those who insisted the midfielder running the show was a 16-year-old

Six years later, Dalglish has a man's job in mind for the experienced pro who earned £29 a week for his child-star duties, which included cleaning the boots of Archie Gourlay and

Neil Simpson.

A new batch of recruits have arrived to fight for first-team places, and Jon Dahi Tomasson. Temur Ketsbaia, Shay Given, Stuart Pearce and Alessandro Pistone may all have opening day roles against Sheffield Wednesday at St James' Park on

Saturday. Daiglish, though, is likely to find defensive room to accommodate the old hand who wore markable versatility to the full.

"A very mature player and a Shearer. "I am just looking for-



Steve Watson gathers his thoughts as No knocked out of last season's Uefa Cup

said, never having settled in a position long enough to take one for granted. "Obviously Alan's injury has cast a bit of a shadow, but it's not all doom and gloom. Not at all. We've got our two Champions' League

qualifying games for a start. That's got to make it as exciting a season as we've had since I've been here.'

More exciting, certainly, than heading towards Hartlepool with Fereday and the rest of

# New goal for Davenport on 99 not out

a generation of strikers which tends not to indulge in elaborately choreographed goal celebrations. Yet if Macclesfield Town's newly appointed player-coach scores against Torquay United on Saturday, hc may be tempted to raise an Imaginary cricket bat.

Finding the net on Macclesfield's Football League debut would not only be satisfying in itself. It would also bring up a century of League goals that the former England player did not He never played me again." expect to complete.

figures so cautiously.

'It's been as if the captain de-99 not out." Davenport chuck- chester United.

Phil Shaw meets the one-cap wonder who, at 36, is now player-coach at the League's latest recruits, Macclesfield, where he has a score to settle

led, "When I got that last goal there was a lot of publicity about my being on the brink of a hundred. Stockport had three games left and Dave Jones [the manager, now with Southamptoni told me: 'Don't worry, you'll get your chance to do it'.

pect to complete. Macclesfield's promotion Four years have elapsed since from the Vauxhall Conference Davenport advanced to 98 with has given Davenport more Sunderland: a further 28 than an opportunity to reach a months since a single took him personal milestone. The purist on to 99 during a loan stint with style of Sammy Mellroy's side Stockport. Even Geoffrey Boy- has restored his appetite for the his enthusiasm as great as at any time since his heyday with clared the innings with me on Nottingham Forest and Man-

"I squared it for Lineker to chip it over Packie Bonner. That was his first goal for England. The rest is history. Go on Gary, make yourself a million while I just go and play for Airdrie and Southport!"

Fate seemed to have switched sides when, the following year, Ron Atkinson paid £575,000 to take him to United, where McIlroy had been among his adolesceot heroes. Within six months, however, Alex Ferguson took over and re-signed

Davenport went on to play for Middlesbrough and Sunderland before circumstances led him to Scotland. "I decided to find a club where they That was then... Peter Davenport makes his only didn't have so many overnight appearance for England, in 1985 Photograph: Colorsport stops. My boy had just been

Davenport's promise was immense, Blessed with deft control and a talent for turning defenders - as viewers of Match of the Eighties saw last week - he was initially rated on a par with Gary Lineker. And when Mark Hughes left Old Trafford for Barcelona, he was the replace-He was still with Forest when

Bobby Robson picked him for the squad to play the Republic of Ireland at Wembley in 1985. "It was two days after my hirthday," Davenport recalled. "Not Mick McCarthy tried to clear the ball and it broke to me in the inside-right channel.

While the tone is self-mocking rather than self-pitying. misfortune would play a part in Davenport's status as a one-cap wonder. A week later a hamstring injury forced him out of the impending World Cup qual-ifier in Romania. He never did wear the pin-striped summer tour suit for which the FA had him measured.



born, yet every other Friday. at 5pm. I'd be sat in the Sunderland coach in a traffic jam on the

Spells with Airdrieonians and St Johnstone allowed him to see more of his family - "we hardly ever played anyone more than an hour away from our home in Edinburgh" - but Davenport felt he had unfinished business south of the

After a permanent move to Stockport fell through, he joined Southport. He was the Conference cluh's assistant manager, only to be overlooked when the senior post became vacant. Having told the chairman he did not want to go back to being just a player, he was released.

"I was thinking of packing it in because I wasn't enjoying my football. Then Sammy came in for me and I realised I'd landed on my feet. I thought: 'This is fantastic - I want to go on

playing as long as I can'.

Macclesfield took the championship playing the type of football Davenport was football schooled in. "I've been fortunate to have played for some good managers. I rate Brian Clough as the best - his manmanagement was second to nnne. The way he used

psychology was incredible.
"More importantly, he always
played the right way. He'd place
a ball in the middle of the room and say: 'That's precious, ook after it, don't give it away'. "Sammy's not as outspoken are stepping into the unknown

- few people are - but his values are the same. It's pass and move, starting from a solid back four, like it was at Forest. When we get possession we

> 'We've got players who will surprise people with their quality'

of chances. Touch wood." The qualification is added as much hecause "the Silkmen"

flood the box and create loads

fate. "Nobody knows how we'll cope with the physical demands, though we've got players who'll surprise people with their qual-

For instance? "Neil Sorvel in midfield. Crewe let him go hut Payne and Neil Howarth are excellent centre-hacks. Then there's Steve Wood, our top scorer, who could become the oldest man to make his League debut - at 34."

Wood has given up his job as a JCB driver to go full-time. McIlroy's small squad, recruited on a shoestring, also includes a recently retired postman, lifeguard and gardener. Davenport, who will continue studying for a sports science degree at

Manchester University, was delighted to commit himself to

a first-ever campaign at Third

Division level. That has meant the kind of pre-season regime he thought was hehind him, and which is oow his responsibility. "Training's been very enjoyable, hon-estly," he said. "The spirit at Macclesfield is fantastic. Three years ago they won the title and weren't allowed into the League. It's mostly the same lads, so there's a real feeling of

'let's make it count this time'. Talking of counting, Davenport is confident of troubling the scorers in the coming weeks. He will not, it is safe to assume, be unduly concerned if the elusive goal is not quite Match of the

# Most clubs are having to look at innovative strategies to lure fans brainwashed into believing life is only good at the top

Utopia and he is sure to reply along these lines: give me a product that no one else can offer, that everybody wants, at a price affordable to all.

In post-war Britain in the late Forties and Fifties, professional football was such a product. It monopolised Saturday afternoon entertainment. Capacity crowds packed sardine-like on vast open terraces week after week after week. Perceived to be good value for money, the masses did not appear unduly worried by the poor facilities and the cramped confines of their temporary living quarters. After all, hadn't watching football always been like this?

In far more comfortable surroundings - the padded-seat luxury of the directors' box - the privileged few counted their coins. Football admission could hardly have been deemed expensive, (the mass audience were, after all, the workers) hut, in an era when the players carned peanuts in relation

been halcyon days for your average, extremely rich football director. For men of vision, this surely had

to be the opportune time to reinvest the excess. Antiquated stadiums, so desperately in need of modemisation on the grounds of both improved comfort and safety, were largely left to crumble. Implementing a pricing policy that rewarded the loyalty of the fans by pegging prices was overlooked in favour of a relentless series of unnecessary and downright greedy admission hikes.

Blinded by pound signs, the money men failed to see the arrival of the. opposition. Living standards were rising, so too were people's expectations. Shops were, by now, stacked with attractive goods. People buying a car for the first time could, come the weekend, spread their wings and

explore the countryside. Television, now within the budget

Ask a salesman for his vision of to the receipts amassed, it must have who preferred, instead, the comfort Garry Nelson asks if of their own homes and the covelty of an afternoon devoted to a whole variety of televised sports.

Slowly, almost imperceptibly at first, the crowds started to drift away. A trickle became a flood as football lost its mass appeal. Wringing their hands, the directors attempted to make good the shortfall with even greater price increases.

Crowds continued their downward plunge through the hooliganravaged Sixties, Seventies and early Eighties, with the game's lowest ebb being reached in the quite appaling wake of the triple tragedies of Bradford, Brussels and Hillsborough. Hand-wringing time again as the authorities looked to the heavens for some divine intervention.

Winging in to answer their prayers was Sky supremo Rupert Murdoch. By toe-poking a multi-million pot of gold towards the of the working classes, accounted for a high percentage of stayaway fans

the unstoppable rise of television is pricing the smaller clubs out of existence

more than any other individual to the long-term viability of the English game.

Backed not only by his huge investment but also by the strongest promotional campaign the sport has ever seen, the professional game is once more in public demand. Increased demand invariably leads to a shortage of supply, which in turn leads to increased prices.

The top clubs have not been slow in taking advantage. Ticket prices have risen sharply. For a family man taking his two children on a footballing day out, it is now necessary to shell out around £70 and that is without the compulsory trip to a fast-food outlet.

Not of great concern perhaps to those riding high on the back of football's current fashionability. But just a couple of rungs below, clubs are increasingly having to look at innovative pricing strategies in an attempt to lure fans brainwashed into believing that life is only good at the

Norwich City were able to attract crowds of several thousand to unattractive reserve fixtures by offering free admission to families and friends. Not much chance of adding to the bank balance there, but the hope is that a high percentage of potential paying customers will return over and over again in the not too

Swindon Town have, once again, implemented a price increase this season. Should they, however, fail to make the play-offs, season-ticket holders will be refunded the cost of the increase.

These two clubs do have the added saleability asset of proximity to the big time. When you are down amongst the dead men, being doesn't nearly begin to offset the innovative with your pricing policy is tantamount to committing financial suicide. Just ask the former

Torquay chairman, Mike Bateson. He came to the painful, inevitable conclusion that regardless of price romotions - two tickets for one, kids for a quid, child season tickets for a tenner - the base for increasing support sufficiently to make ends meet ust was not there. He then had the unenviable task of asking perhaps the most loyal couple of thousand fans in the country to cough up an extra £2 a match for the privilege of watchmg what was, at that particular time,

the worst team in the country. Eight pounds a throw, that's three home games for a month's Sky subscription. Come midweek when the lows come scudding in from the West bringing high winds and tor-rential rain, the choice between lowly Torquay and the other Unit-ed really seems too close to call.

doesn't nearly begin to offset the

For Torquay read the vast majority of Nationwide League clubs. As demand grows for the best seats in the Premiership house, the little leaguers are left to ponder how best they can

A drastic price reduction may be the answer, but such has been the effectiveness of Murdoch's marketing strategy, there is still no guarantee that this will be enough to tempt those hooked on his sporting satellite show to watch live foot-

As the recently unemployed sale man said: "You're only as good as the product you sell." Especially when it's vastly over-priced. Hee the warning, Premiership clubs. Of have we already reached the stage where the fans are no longer as inportant as the television income, in ensuring that our game - the people's game - will endure.

مكذا من الاحل

# consider of m Maine Ro

chmek ooks t inter r

Schmeichel

looks for

winter rest

Schmeichel is also concerned

about the demands placed upon

the young internationals. "The

England players played into

June [in Le Tournoi de France].

They might have come back the

same time as I did, they may

have had pre-season tours and

they end up not getting in the right form and get injuries dur-

ing the season and they might

not play in the World Cup. I

can't really see the point in that,

"Gary Neville has gone on for

two years now with no hreak

and he needed the time he got

this summer to be able to con-

tinue to produce for Manches-

ready benefited from one rule

change this season which allows

goalkeepers to move on their

line before a penalty is taken.

first penalty at Wembley after

United learned from experience

the advantage the new rule

gives the goalkeeper. "We missed two penalties in Milan

last week because the goal-

keeper was dancing about on the line, Jordi [Crayff] was tak-

ing one and he didn't know what

fore and it's going to create a lot

of confusion for the goalkeeper as well as the penalty taker. The

Internazionale keeper saved two

penalties by moving about on the

"You come up against play-

ers like Gianfranco Zola who

are so confident they can wait

until the very last second, so you

line so I thought I'd try it.

City consider exit

from Maine Road

"It's never been allowed be-

to do," Schmeichel said.

He saved Frank Sinclair's

Schmeichel has at least al-

ter United and England."

D Division and

are their and

CLA TOUR

assigner attackning of

27 × 472 4541 2 ×/202

- - 12. States

Football

in the season.

Peter Schmeichel trudged

wearily from the Wembley pitch

after the first game of the sea-

son on Sunday and immediately pleaded for a Christmas break

The Manchester United

goalkeeper helped the cham-

pions claim yet another piece of

silverware in the Charity Shield

penalty shoot-out against the FA

The traditional curtain-

raiser is just the opening fixture

of a season that could last 11

months for those players in-

volved in the World Cup finals

in France in 1998 and Schmo-

ichel yesterday predicted that the Football Association would

The Danish international

goalkeeper said: "If England

qualify [for the World Cup].

what's the point in stretching the

season another week? If you

play in this league you need a

lot of rest, not just between

games hut you also need a lot

of rest between seasons. I think

eventually we will have to have

players can look forward to a lit-

tle break they will come back

more fresh and ready and every-

one will benefit from that,"

"They will find that if the

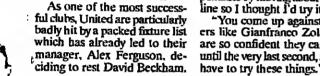
e hreak at Christmas.

rest for exhausted players.

Cup holders, Chelsea.

p. li is "taught" with

Dearder was shore



a new 70,000 capacity stadium. Francis Lee, the club's chair-

man, has confirmed the First Division club are looking at moving to a new venue which is under construction at East- be out of action for only a few ards gays lands for the Commonwealth

Lee was speaking as plans were unveiled at Maine Road, City's home of 77 years, for a second temporary stand to fit in an extra 2,000 fans for the forthcoming season.

Wolves have lost their appeal against the £250,000 they were ordered to pay Leicester for goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac. The Molineux club were told to pay he money last September, depute not signing the Australian

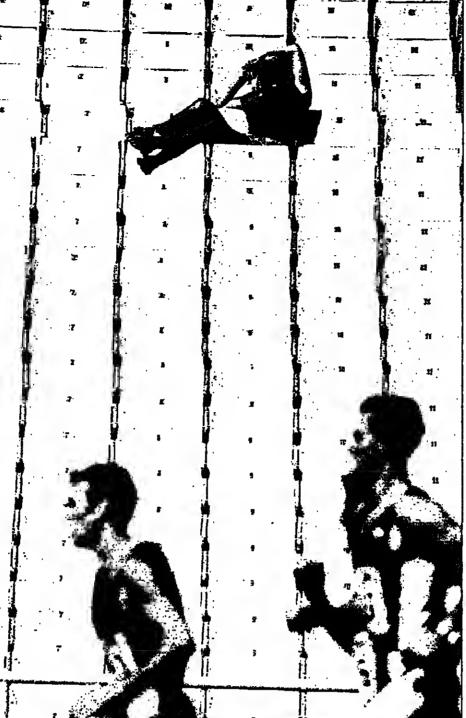
Manchester City could be set to due to problems over a work leave Maine Road and move to permit. Leicester successfully argued then that Wolves had reneged on buying the player.

Des Hamilton, the Newcastle wing-back bought for £1.25m from Bradford, is expected to weeks, rather than a few months which was teared after he injured his right ankle in Sunday's 3-2 friendly defeat hy Juventus.

Brentford are looking for a new manager five days hefore the start of the new season after Dave Webh accepted the role of chief executive.

Norwegian defender Jon Olav Hjelde has completed his £600,000 move to Nottingham Forest and is likely to take the place of Colin Cooper for Saturday's match at Port Vale.

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS: Americans and Athenians unimpressed by the best



A spectator has an unfettered view of a men's 800m heat on Sunday Photograph: Reuter tiring folk who do not cover

# Greene and Jones sprint into obscurity

Maurice Who, Marion Who? Well, Maurice Greene and Marion Jones, actually, who on Sunday became respectively the "world's fastest man" and "world's fastest woman" with their 100 metres victories in Athens. America, therefore, has recaptured its traditional pre-eminence in the short sprints. Only, don't expect too many people across the Atlantic to be beside

themselves with excitement. In a popularity ranking of ma-jor sports in the United States, athletics - or track and field as it is called there - would languish somewhere hetween each cricket and curling. Only at Olympic time does it impinge on the public consciousness, and then only thanks to TV packaging, which relies on saccha-rine biographies of selected competitors rather than examination of their events. Anyone, after a serious assessment of American sprinting strength, would have learn more in one evening of BBC coverage of Athens than from 6 week of the pap served up by NBC on the Atlanta Games. Unlike those major TV

sports of American football and basehall, which are virtually unique to North America. track and field involves competition against foreigners. Now foreigners are only of the scantest interest to an irredeemahly chauvinist American public. To make matters worse, they have a frequent habit of beating their US rivals. So how do you sell that? One answer would be world records, but even network mega-bucks cannot guarantee that. What's a 9.86sec 100m d it's not a record? Answer: as uninteresting and unpalatable to American viewers as a goalless draw at football (sorry, soccer.) And so to the last ratings hope of track and field - an extra dash of "charisma" (read the antics of a Denis Rodman or

Mike Tyson). Alas, athletics of-

fers neither blood nor human

contact. Its greatest practition-

ers tend to be modest and re-

Rupert Cornwell considers the negligible impression made on their fellow Americans by the world's fastest man and woman

themselves with tattoos, pick fights with the media or chew on ear lobes. Only Carl Lewis has used athletics to become a sporting superstar in his own land. But even he owes his American celebrity at least as much to a loud mouth as to his brilliance at his chosen trade.

And consider who else lingers in the memory among American athletes since the war. Incomparables like Ed Moses and Al Oerter? Not really. Immortality requires a dash of the outlandish – the hlack power salute by Tommy Smith and John Carlos, Bob Beamon's freakish 29ft long jump 6t the same Mexico City Olympics of 1968, and "the Flop" with which Dick Fosbury they're in the wrong game.

jumping. Britain still cherishes heroes like Bannister and Chataway. Coe and Ovett, Daley Thompson and Linford Christie. Not even shocking gold shoes, however, are unlikely to keep Michael Johnson from obscurity once these World Championships are over. Thus it was

quickly revolutionised high

after Atlanta, despite his 19.32sec 200 metres, in its way as unbelievable as the Beamon long jump 28 years earlier; and thus it will be after Athens, even if he produces another world record. Let Maurice Greene and Marion Jones be warned. If they want to become famous.



# Nebiolo on attack as spectators shun Athens

Primo Nebiolo, the International Amaleur Athletic president, yesterday attacked the Athens anthorities for not promoting the World Championships sufficiently after the stadium was only half full for Sunday's 100 metres finals, the event's higgest night.

As Athens enters the final weeks of its campaign to host the 2004 Olympics, television pic-

the world while the American Maurice Greene was winning an exciting battle with Donovan

Bailey for the men's 100 title. While Athens' old Olympic stadium was packed for Friday's opening ceremony when Vangelis played "Chariots of Fire" and dancers pretended to be ethletes, the sight of real run-

same local appeal.

There has maybe not been a great campaign of promotion," said Nehiolo, who is also backing Rome's rival bid for the 2004 Games.

More than 53,000 seats in the Olympic stadium have been made available to the public. While the 1993 championships

tures showing thousands of emp-ty seats were broadcast around the weekend has not had the pionships in Gothenburg enoyed bumper crowds, Athens has struggled.

Nebiolo is in a difficult position diplomatically at these championships since Athens and Rome are regarded as being the two favourites to win the International Olympic Committee vote to host the Games next month. The success or

failure of these championships could be an important factor. The Greeks immediately countered the criticism by say-

ing that the nine-day programme was too long. "The programme is too hig. Six days would have been better," said the Greek National Olympic Committee chief, Lambis Nikolaou. "Perhaps the prices are too high."

cided to prevent any repetition of action by supporters of the Athens hid after a huge banner was displayed in the stadium on Saturday and Sunday. The IAAF does not allow advertising in the stadium from any of the five cities hidding for the Games. Athens and Rome are bidding against Cape Town, Buenos Aires and Stockholm: a decision will be tak-Nebiolo said the IAAF had de- en in Lausanne next month.

# st friend? 102 trust the or and control of the or be recorded to the or be re

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AR MARIE FOR MAN an particulation team in the process.

The last a take Mickelson, who led going into the final round, was never nal day as he cruised to a The Age of Miller seriously challenged on the fiseven-point victory over the

birdies and one bogey for a four-

ine scoring system awards five points for an eagle, two for a hirdle, zero for par a hirdie, zero for par, and sub-tracts one point for a hard subthree for a double-bogey or

worse. occure the mst playof 45 points, set in 1993. He ecorded two eagles, 21 birdies and four bosess for

me a bit of momentum going nto the PGA Chambar going

The top 10 players after the GA Championship automat-American team that will challenge Europe, the holders, at halfalderrama, Spain, next was a spain of the holders. ally gain selection for the RECYCLE Halderrama, Spain, next month.

BASCIDANI
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Montreol 6 Son Dego 3, 
Philipéliphia 10 St Louis 1, Pizaburgh 8 Colorado 4, Son Francisco 6 Cinornian 3 110 minigal, housson 3 NY Motis 2, Florida 6 Atlanta 4, Chengle 
Cuts 4 Los Angeles 3 112 minigal, 
AMERICAN LEAGUED DORING 5 Tionato 2, NY vanless 6 Minimules 5, Beltimora 7 Coldina 4, 
Seattle 6 Millianules 5, Beltimora 7 Coldina 6, 
Anohum 4 Chicago White Sos 1, Texas 6 Clori-

Golf

LPGA DU MAURIER CLASSIC (Onkville):
Leading Gnel sceres (US unless stated): 278

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71 67 73 69. 281. 8 king 71 69 72 69. K.

Robburs 71 65 73 72. 282 C Figs-Currer 69

74 69 70. 1 Interer 70 69 71 72. 283 R Jones

69 71 71 72. E Klein 73 70 71 69. 284 L

Hackney (Sci) 73 69 75 67, C Johnson 70 72

72 70. 285 1 Gaddes 74 69 74 68, 0 Anderes

71 69 76 69, Blumton 69 75 66 75. 288 H

Altredspon (Swe) 75 70 69 72, 7 Berrett 71.

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Krischetter 72 73 74 68, H Kobaşeris Llapon)

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Ammoccapme 71 75 68 72, D Rohard 72 73

70 72, K Saik 75 69 71 72. W Ward 72 71

72 72.

PGA SPRENT INTERNATIONAL (Castle Rock,

72 72.

PGA SPRINT INTERNATIONAL (Castle Rock, Colorado: Leading three scores (Modified Stableford - the points for eagle, two for bridle, zero for per, and subvaces one point for bogy and three points for double bogey or worse; US unless noted: 48pts P Micleison 14 13 12 9.41 S Applety Usu, 9 10 13 9.38 S Kendell 10 12 12 4, 34 D Hart 10 10 8 6, 33 K Sutherland 3 14 6 B, I Haas 15 4 10 4, 32 I Fully 3 6 12 9, E Es ISA) 5 6 14 7, L Mize 15 8 3 6, 31 N Price (Ziml 6 14 7 4.

Rugby League

### Rugby Union Bill Watson, the former Scotland No 8.

has been appointed as the Scottish Rug-by Union's new chief executive. Watson, who won 10 caps between 1973 and 1979 and who has coached both Boroughmuir and Biggar, is currently over-seas business development director for Guardell Ltd. Watson, 48, expects to take up his post on September 1. take up his post on September 1.
Bristol yesterday signed the Ireland Under-21 hooker David Lee from Cork Constitution, following his former team-mates Paul Burke and David Corkery to the Memorial Ground.
Bridgend have appointed Welsh International Gereth Thomas as their captain for the new Welsh League premier division season.

Schilling Standard Monaton (Class CHS): 1 Lucio Ingal (Monaton); 2 Ross Faid (Barque In dissertation); 3 Cosen Marrie (Standa Langoborda), Class 1 CHS:1: Rochert Lot-tus (Desporato) of Covest; 2 Tim Loud & Rit-Holdsy (Independent Seet; 3 Pt Voon (Torneres, Class 2 CHS): 1: Anthony De Malder (Mctr. 4); 2 Island Crentes: Littl (Milpower); 3 Nicholes Lytter-

dopulo (Aera). Closes 3 CHS: 1 Peter Bearmon (Arter); 2 Care White Cloud IV; 3 Mark Pelling (Counteer). Classe 4 CHS: 1 Peter Bruce (Well); 2 Licash Buxer (Passeguer; 3 Mark Del Bred (Corolne). Closes 6 CHS: 1 W Serge 4 W Yorrghins: (Mussang Sally); 2 Ian Handley & Robh Sunner (Addet R: 3 Peter Deleon (Star-Born II). Closes 6 CHS: 1 Martin Moooly (Shadou; 2 Cassided Mellicon (Kandou); 3 John & John Dudley (Purple Hazi). Closes 7 ISC: 1 Peter Oglan (Jasz); 2 Iany 6 Julia Petro (Lanco); 3 John & John Dudley (Purple Hazi). Closes 7 ISC: 1 Peter Oglan (Jasz); 2 Iany 6 Julia Petro (Le Fred); 3 Peul & Vannessa Messel (Chorresse III). Closes 6 ISC: 1 Roger Harding (Luonella); 2 Dones Steele (Unone); 3 Julie Doson (Bone Chern). Closes 98 Selfe: 1 Marchael Lamon (Baudactic) 2 M Larry R Sugden 7 Romano (Optomurmi); 3 Joe Engish & Tom Duncon IT Bone). Clases 98 Selfe: 1 Jun Anderson (Tigor); 2 Dorner & George Baller (Mad Conf); 3 Dowe & Jon Miffer (Paulo); 3 June 8 Jon Miffer (Paulo); 3 June 8 Jon Miffer (Paulo); 3 Selfer Down (Inc.); 2 Ver 2 M Selfer (Strong Hardy); 2 Ver 3 M Selfer (Strong Hardy); 3 Peter M Bought (Horarrey of Bootham); 2 V & P & Paul Bouer (Signous); 1; 3 John Barder (Strong) John 3); 4-9a; 1 John & Kate Pollard (Scoppie); 2 Andrew Michane (Med Jedy); 3 Petrok La My Blaire (Refox), Contenen 32; 1 Note Backley (Mersik I); 2 O Rachael R Rouse 7 Vanner (Bardou); 3 Frank Greshard 6 Petrokold (Trade IIa), 16 Glernfüldlich Mellings 24: 1 Midges Racing

0506: December - 100 metres.

.0850: Women's discus qualifying round, group B 0740: Decathlon - shot out, two

1540: Men's 110 metres hundes sec-1600: Men's long jump final. ובקנוסק פאט לסונסק.

1740: Men's 400 metres float 1805: Decembon - 400 metres. The Eurospiert 0600-10.00, 11.00-12.30, 15.00-19.15, 88022 06.25-08.00, 15.30-20.00 Little Pigot; 3 Michael Webster (Mes Money Penny). National Sonanta: 1 Peter Isotti (Bilericzy Deity Two): 2 Down & Shein Luppid (Dyr Red): 3 Thomas When (Pacchol). Sonant: 1 Reyel Sprints Saston; When (Pacchol). Sonant: 1 Reyel Sprints Saston; Federat; (IBA): 2 Sonar Yachts (IBA): 2 Sonar Yachts (IBA): 2 Sonar Yachts (IBA): 2 Sonar Yachts (IBA): 2 Register of Smith A Colins: 1 8 Cynnerico. Natureactional Exchance: 1 Reyel Pigot; 1 Register of Smith A Colins: 1 8 Cynnerico. Natureactional Exchance: 1 Reyel (Lucy Blact; 3 Register Wickens & Meris Downer (Moorisgin), Interpretational Deaglos: 1 Panis ven Beumping (Heston B): 2 R Judian & Rechard Bullock (Peer Gynt; 3 Russel & Jurnes Topp (Heston Lucy): 3 Jurnes Ventron (Action), Redusing: 1 Jungition (Seas); 3 Hon Mrs W & Wilsom Cegg (Lucy Lucy): 3 Solect Scondensen: 1 Peter Nature (Lucy; 3 Rusper Widers (Denny); Seiger (Denny); Seiger Widers (Denny); Seiger Widers (Denny); Seiger

Dovorshare (Hallul); 3 M Pair & R Camiti (Sout-10), International Flying Fifteen: 1 J & Paul Hayden (Dulgendoot); 2 Paul & James Moor-men (Plump Chicken); 3 Ian Gominge (Basil-ca). X One Design: 1 Harry Dodd & Dand Bedford (Heyday); 2 Susart & Maryann Jar-dine (Lone Start; 3 Robin Batthe (K-Ray), Na-tional Squib: 1 Pears Tracy (Moontales); 2 James Murch (Lowhiz); 3 Cot Dick Hewiti (San), Victory; 2 Jeremy Lear (Zinnia); 2 Jan Penyman & Nick Benham (Nada); 3 Nigal Sefton-Smith (Woode), Cork (1720: 1 Joe Engish & Tom Duncan (I Bone); 2 Stewart Hawthom (Le Bouchon); 3 7 Richardson & Str Mark Norman (Premier Cru).

(US): 4 GUNet (AUS): 5 Easy Oars (GB); 6 Brave Q8 (II); 7 Fram XIV (Scand). Maintain 36: 1. Breaze (II): 2 Jerneson (US): 3 Bradamarte (GB); 4 Sea (Aus); 5 George Express (NZ); 6 I Funkt (Ger); 7 Mumm a Maaf (Scand). Gorrum Virolly Raise E Big Boatss: 1 Flash Gordon; 2 Numbers: 3 Corum Indulgence: 4 Ragsmaffin; 6 Madrine; 8 Rubra: 7 Illnestor. BLC 40s: 1 Mean Machine; 2 Printerson. ta; 3 Brava Q8; 4 Easy Oars; 5 GUNet; 6 MK Cafe, Fram old not start, Mumm 36: 1 Breeze; Care. Fram do not star. Interior 36: 2. Stream: 2 Jameson: 3 See; 4 Bradomarde; 5 Munnn a Mai; 6 I Punke; 7 Georga Express. Standings overall (subject to protest) after 6we races; 1 US 56-25cts; 2 GB 75; 3 New Zealand, 75.63; 4 Germany, 82.75; 8 Italy, 87.5; 6 Australia, 89.38; 7 Scandinavia, 137.75.

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# Mickelson in charge to title and Cup place

Phil Mickelson claimed his second Sprint International title Sunday and secured a place in the United States Ryder Cup

seven-point victory over the Australian Smart Appleby in de-lightful playing conditions at Castle Pines. Castle Pines.
He compiled a round of five

400 metres semi-Snels (first 4 in each best to Snell: Heat 1: 17 Westington (US) 44.61: 2 M Richardson (GS) 44.62; 3 J Beufeh (GS) 44.62; 3 J Beufeh (GS) 44.63: 46.69: 4 Ponigrey (US) 44.87: 5 D Clarke (Jam) 45.07; 8 ( Wade (Sen) 45.47; 7 S Bade (Neger) 45.96; R Machaviek (Pol) did not Start. Heat 2: 1 M Johnson (US) 44.37; 2 J Young (US) 44.57; 4 I Thomas (GS) 44.50; 3 O Namoga (US) 44.37; 4 I Thomas (GS) 44.51; 5 C Cultoku (Neger) 45.26; 6 R Alarbo Llam) 45.49; 7 7 Castok (Pol) 45.51; 8 M McDonald Uem) 45.74. under-par 68 worth nine points under the Modified Stableford format used for the event.

Mickelson finished with 48 points to become the first playevent's 12-year history. He also seat his own tournament record and four bogeys for an unoffi-lad 21-under 267 total.

(IS) 44.61; 8 C Challenu (Neger) 45.26; 6 R Martin Userol 45.46; 77 Castook (Pol) 45.51; 8 M McDonald Userol 45.49; 77 Castook (Pol) 45.51; 8 M McDonald Userol 45.49; 79 Castook (Pol) 45.51; 800 services first round (Brief four in each best plais four festiest incess to seconet round; Heat 1: 1 W Righester (Den) 1.min 46.34sec: 2 H Seperal (SA) 1.46.42; 3 E Tupul-mit 4.03; 5: 1 Destroe (Hairi) 1.47.70; 8 I Rebotter (Den) 1.47.33; 5: 1 Destroe (Hairi) 1.47.70; 8 I Rebotter (Martin 1.47.70; 8) R (Martin Clim) 1.46.97; 6 I Korara (Beb) 1.47.53; 7 A M Verron-Welson (Jam) 1.46.96; 8 V Stolenov (Marcell 1.46) 1.50.68; 8 V Stolenov (Marcell 1.52.65; Heat 3: 1 M Korara (Nath) 1.47.47; 1 S R Kothernikov (Rus) 1.47.44; 4 J Barbotes (Bra) 1.47.53; 5 M Mid-ner (Aut) 1.47.77; 8 S Kothernikov (Rus) 1.47.44; 4 J Barbotes (Bra) 1.47.55; 5 M Mid-ner (Aut) 1.47.71; 8 S Kothernikov (Rus) 1.47.47, 4 J Barbotes (Bra) 1.47.55; 5 M Mid-ner (Aut) 1.47.71; 8 S Kothernikov (Rus) 1.47.47, 3; 3 M Van Hoerden (SA) 1.47.56; 4 M Kohen (Bol) 1.47.73; 3 A Hart (GS) 1.47.96; 4 M Mokella (Not) 1.47.58; 2 A Hastingamene (But) 1.47.73; 3 A Hart (GS) 1.47.96; 4 M Mokella (Not) 1.47.58; 2 N Hastingamene (But) 1.45.60; 1 S O Martin (Rus) 1.49.51; 2 L Vydine (CR) 1.40.01; 5 P Soukup (CR Rep) 1.48.18; 6 M Tonks (Not) 1.48.85; 7 A Persp (Crao) 1.54.01; 6 M Mokella (Iran) du not start; 6 M Mochan (San Martino) 1.45.60; 8 C Modella (Rus) du not start (San Martino) 1.45.60; 8 C Modella (Rus) du not start; 6 Mochan (San Martino) 1.45.60; 8 C Modella (Rus) du not start; 6 Mochan (San Martino) 1.45.60; 8 C Modella (Rus) du not start; 6 Mochan (San Martino) 1.45.60; 8 C Modella (Rus) du not start; 6 Mochan (San Martino) 1.45.60; 8 C Modella (Rus) du not start; 6 Mochan (San Martino) 1.45.60; 8 C Modella (Rus) du not start; 6 Mochan "I played four good rounds and that's something I haven't aid Mickelson of the year's inal major championship in wo weeks time.

ine Hith PGA Tour victory of his career and second of the year vas worth \$306,000 and 150 Per Communications of the year. ler Cup points, which pushed dickelson up from muth to ifth place in the US standings.

James Hamilton, the Budweiser League's leading rebounder last season, has joined Exide London Tower from Worthing Beess. Towers have re-signed Danny Lewis, Bard Brown and Neville Austin and are ne-gotieting with Alan Currungham, Tony Windless and Keith Robinson, Worthing, who have been threatening to leave the league through lack of sponsorship, will confirm letter this week that they will compete page season.

(Fr) 3:39.01; 7 G Hood (Carr) 3:39.13; 8 G D Napol (ti) 3:39.45; 9 D Macazuz (Mort 3:39.99; 10 A Sodili (Mor) 3:40.15; 11 K Mot-sy (68) 3:40.21; 12 A Zadorozinyi (Rus) 3:42.61. 400 metres burdles final 1 6 Diagone (Fr) \_\_\_\_\_ 2 L Herbert (SA) \_\_\_\_\_

6 N Macrosco (pas) 40.51. 7 Macrosco (pas) 49.00; 8 J Muzik (CR Rep.) 40.51.

3.000 metres steeplechess seoid-finals (first five in each best place two featings (loss) finals (trist five in each best place two featings) (pas) 40.51.

3 M Notanut (Nen) 8.20.76; 4 H Bousouche DArd 8.20.48; 5 J Ren Notatis (Nen) 8.20.40; 5 J Seeney (Nen) 8.21.16; 7 V Promi (Rus) 8.29.39; 8 R Moran (Sp) 8.31.76; 9 R Worder (Nen) 8.29.39; 8 R Moran (Sp) 8.31.76; 9 R Worder (Nen) 8.21.7.95; 2 W B Napleter (Nen) 8.21.7.95; 2 W B Napleter (Nen) 8.21.96; 8 F None (Nen) 8.27.35; 7 M Buchleitner (Na) 8.26.22; 8 W Morar (Sho) 8.35.01; 9 F State (Opt) 8.35.73; 10 M Laros (Nen) 8.35.12; 11 A Debrynton (Po) 8.38.56; 12 R Hough (Gs) 8.59.24.

R Hough (GB) 8:59.24.

High jump qualitying round (2.28 matres for best 12 qualitying format; Broup A: 1.= G Mayo (Colon) 2.28; Lee Jin-tasek (5 Ver) 2.28; 3: Papakopse (Gr) 2.28; 4 M Buss (Ge) 2.28; 5: G C Austin (US) 2.28; 8= M Bossel (Carl) 2.23; Jifoteniaz (Pol) 2.23; M Mandy (II) 2.23; O Topa (Tug) 2.23; 12: E Krehmic (Bos) 2.23; 13: B Reiky (GB) 2.23; 14: T Janko (Cz Rej) 2.19; 16 A Orins (SD) 2.19; 16 R Ionkins (US) 2.19; 17 K Liaps (G) 2.15; Group B: 1.= S Hoen (Nor) 2.28; J Sotomboy (Cuba) 2.28; A Parykar (Pol) 2.28; S Sotomboy (Cuba) 2.28; A Parykar (Pol) 2.28; C S Pagn (Rus) 2.28; S K Minusadón (IS) 2.26; G S Pagn (Rus) 2.28; P J Simith (GB) 2.26; 10: D Detchenque (F) 2.23; G Brown (US) 2.23; B Zonc (Yug) 2.23; 13: D Mologis (GP) 2.23; M Raidek (F) 7.23; 15: J Unciano (Dom Rep) 2.15; G Howard (VZ) 2.15; 17 M Oncue (Lepun) 2.15; 18 K Naide (Mauntras) 2.15.

4 Grt Breuer (Ger) 50.06; 5 F Ogunkoya (Niger) 50.27; 6 H Ruchsova (Cz Rep.) 50.66; 7 P Davis (Bah) 50.68; 6 7 Alekseyeva (Rus) 51.37.

A six Brouer (Ger/S0.06; 5 F Ogunitope (Neer) 50.27; 6 H Fuchson (C2 Rep) 50.66; 6 7 P Devis (Boh) 50.68; 6 7 Aleisseyene (Run) 51.37.

10-tem week first round (first elight is each heart plans four fischnet losens to firwell; Heart 1: 1 A Lepina (Lat) 44min 07.88sen; 2 M Uhtarik-Rozza (Hun) 44:13.05; 3 0 Rardopoisseva (Bele) 44:15.00; 4 Y Nikolayeva (Rus) 44:18.08; 5 L Khmehntsiaya (Bele) 44:18.08; 7 A Sidob (II) 44:19.33; 6 0 Pemfyerova (Rus) 44:28.48; 8 Wang Yan (China) 44:38.50; 7 A Sidob (II) 44:19.33; 6 0 Pemfyerova (Rus) 44:22.34; 10 G Mendoza (Mex) 44:51.81; 11.5 Feltor (Po) 45:00.77; 12 C Meroen (Sp) 45:00.86; 13 I Rysa (Hung) 45:18.02; 14 1 Varas (Mex) 47:03.18; 15 H Leard (Nor) 47:51.23; 16 V Nadoud (Fr) 47:52.90; 17 K Boyde (Ser) 48:01.28; 18 C Kolotou (Sr) 48:52.36; 19 A Isayeva (Ara) 50:44.62; G Instin (Bo) discursified; A Be) (Melay) discursified; Heat 2:1 0 Narous (Rus) 44:33.48; 9 (Ara) 24:32.47; 6 M Sezonova (Mex) 44:33.48; 9 (Ara) (Ara) 44:32.47; 6 M Sezonova (Mex) 44:33.48; 9 (Ara) (Ara) 47:47.57; 1.1 F Mertinez (Mex) 48:29.81; 18 M Ramon (Ecu) 48:39.75; 7 L Cheng (Melay) disqualified; V Herazo (US) disqualified; Heat 2:10 Ramon (Rus) 48:29.81; 18 M Ramon (Ecu) 48:39.75; 7 L Cheng (Melay) disqualified; V Herazo (US) disqualified; Heat 2:10 Ramon (Rus) 48:29.81; 18 M Ramon (Ecu) 48:39.75; 7 L Cheng (Melay) disqualified; W Herazo (US) disqualified; Heat 2:10 Ramon (Rus) 48:29.81; 18 M Ramon (Ecu) 48:39.75; 7 L Cheng (Melay) disqualified; W Herazo (US) disqualified.

M Ramon (BCI) 48C39.13, 1 Curreng lowlary disquelified; V Herazo (US) disquelified.

Heptatiston: Long Jump: Group A: 1 U Wodarcyk (Poli 6.63 metres 1,049ps; 2 S Montidate (Past) 6.65 metres 1,049ps; 2 S Montidate (Past) 6.60 1.007; 3 M Sciegasi (Ger) 6.42 981; 4 R Nazaroviene (Lith) 6.34 956; 5 N Sazarovien (Bela) 6.24 924; 5 M Collowlie (Pi) 6.10 880; 7 Kelly Beir (US) 6.09 B77; 6 7 Heutala (Pin) 6.03 859; 9 7 Gordeyeva (Rus) 5.82 795; 10 Mac Chun-ping (Tai) 5.65 747; 11 A Papestitriou (Gr) did not start. Group B: 1 D Laws (GB) 6.47 997; 2 S Braun (Ger) 6.42 981; 3 D Nation (US) 6.26 930; 4 P Beer (Ger) 5.21 915; 5 J Henry (M2) 6.17 902; 8 N Teppe (Fr) 8.14 893; 7 1 Vostrious Flue) 6.11 882; 6 I Clopes (Sp) 8.71 752; K Carter (US) did not start; S Kazarina (Naz) did not start. Invedite Group A: 1 N Teppe (Fr) 52.82m 915 points; 2 K Bar (US) 49.94 859; 3 T Gordeyeva (Rus) 45.86 775; 4 M Colorate (Fr) 44.40 752; 8 J Henry (M2) 42.48 715; 6 T Haussia (Fri) 41.50 696; 7 I Clopes (Sp) 40.30 673; Ma Chun-ping (Tai) did not start. Receip B: 1 D Lewis (GB) 52.70 912; 2 S Braun (Ger) 51.48 689; 3 I Vostniova (Rus) 47.74 616; 4 O Nathen (US) 44.54 755; 5

U Wilodarczyk. (Pol) 44.18 748; 5 M Steiglauf (Ger) 43.92 743; 7 N Sezanovich (Bela) 43.70 738; 8 R Nazzaroviene (Lim) 43.46 734; 9 P Beer (Ger) 41.06 688; 10 6 Modisalets (Rus) 36.70 604; Loading standings after six evente: 1 Braun 5.879pts; 2 Lewis 5.797; 3 Nazzarovene 5,608; 4 Sazanovich 5,600; 5 Wio-darczyk 5.571; 6 Steiglauf 5,482; 7 Nathan 5,441; 6 Vostrikova 5,439; 9 Mostaniets 5,354; 10 7eppe 5,348.

# Today's events in Athens and TV times

OSEO: Women's discus (qualifying group A). 8535: Women's 400 metres hurdles 0800: Decathlon - long jump; two GB15: Men's 110 metres hundles first cound.

groups. 1448: Decembon - high jump. 1500; Men's 800 metres record 1540: Men's javean final.

1640: Women's 1,500 metres final. 1845: Women's shot put qualifying 1855: Women's 10,000 metres fi-

Steve Howey talks to Simon Turnbull, page 22

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP: Heptathlete's best not enough to beat German as there is disappointment for Hansen

# Lewis has to settle for a silver medal

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

reports from Athens

Denise Lewis last night won the first medal of the World Championships for Great Britain as she took silver in the heptathlon behind the favourite. Sabina Braun of Germany.

Lewis, who finished with a torai of 6,654 points, put in a performance that had scarcely any weak links, doing justice to a talent which brought her the Olympic bronze medal in Atlanta last summer.

In the absence of the injured defending champion. Ghada Shouaa, it appeared that Lewis, who broke her Commonwealth record earlier this year, had a chance of gold. Unfortunately for her, the 32-year-old from Essen produced the performance of her life to win with 6.739

Ashia Hansen, who reached vesterday's triple-jump cham-pionship amid rising British hopes of a first championship medal, was unable to rise to the occasion. Hansen, who headed the qualifying with a leap of 14.77 metres, had had prepa-rations for Athens disrupted by a back mjury which affected her ability to sprint.

Her performance on Saturday left her in some pain and she received immediate physiotherapy. But the competition last night appeared to reveal that the 24-year-old was still hampered. With her sixth and final attempt on the night, she stood fifth after a competition in which several of her rivals had surpassed themselves.

In a vain attempt to raise herself, she encouraged the crowd to clap. But the effort was in vain. Her distance was 14.49m - her hest on the night, but not cnough to lift her in the plac-

As she shook hands with her opponents, a wry smile came to her face. She had simply not been able to raise her level of



High hopes: Britain's Dalton Grant sails over the bar, on his way to the qualifying for the final of high jump in Athens yesterday

Photograph: Mike Powell/Allsport

performance like several of those around her.

Hansen had been hoping for a progression, having finished fourth at last summer's Olympic Games and then taken the silver medal at the World Indoor

Championships in March, The hop and the step were promising, hut the jump proved too much, Hansen's coach, Aston Moore, had said beforehand that Hansen's confidence something which has let her

down in more than one major championship - was now strong. "She feels like she belongs with the top jumpers now," he said. She did not look out of

efficiency. As she had feared beforehand, Romania's Rodica Matescu, whom she had referred to as "the dark horse". had come through strongly as place yesterday but was clear-ly operating well below peak adding two centimetres to her

world best of the year when she managed 15.16m on her first attempt. It looked enough for the gold medal, but Sarka Kasparkova surpassed with her fifth jump, reaching out to

There was further disappointment for Britain on the night as Steve Smith, the Olympic hronze medallist failed to qualify for the high tendon injury for the last three weeks, was only able to manage However, his colleague Dal-

ton Grant, who joined the British squad late because of suspected food poisoning did get through, making the official qualifying height of 2.28, his season's best.

In the 400m hurdles final. Stephane Diagana of France defeated the American favourite Bryan Bronson with a time of

In the women's 400m, Cathy Freeman of Australia took the gold in 49.77sec and then, just as she had done in winning the Commonwealth Games three years ago, took the flags repre-senting both Australia and the Australian Aborigines on her lap of honour.

Steve Backley sets out today in pursuit of the global gold which he wants - which according to him, he needs to round off his achievements in the javelin.

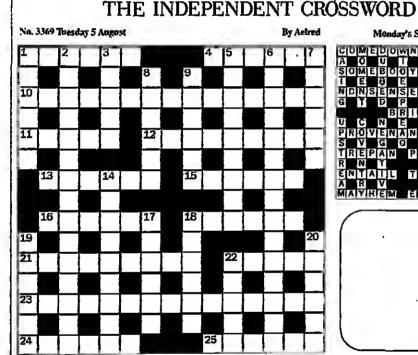
As usual, one of the main problems for Britain's Olympic silver medallist is the Czech Republic's gold medallist Jan Zelezny, who was the leading qualifier on Sunday night.

Zelezny's effort - \$3.66m -

was far from awe inspiring, but he gained a slight psychological advantage in qualifying outright with one throw while Backley had to wait for confirmation that his 81.40m was

Mick Hill, who qualified with 82.24, will also be hoping to add a World Championship medal to the bronze he won in 1993. The lurking danger in the field is the home thrower,

NOSIAS GALSIOUIDIS, VIIU IS TANS ly to attract a large, partisan crowd - something which will please the International Amateur Athletic Federation president, Primo Nebiolo, who has expressed his disapproval of the relatively sparse numbers who witnessed Sunday night's



- 1 Reel, being cut with lots of wine? (6)
- 4 About to teach in place of prestige (6) 10 Prisons for those of Eu-
- ropean descent? (5.5.5) 11 Going through books of
- car firm takes time (5)
- 12 More to pay when up on French indictment? (9)
- 13 Ill-tempered, having to put on second diaper (6)
- 15 Greek island's short of food (6)
- 16 What you'll have to pay to get into work over a
- pretentious type (6) 18 Free cleaner given to worker (6)

21 Count Bari out as a place

where growth is encour-

- err? (5) 23 Not generally showing a lack of levity? (8.7) 24 Disruption in spring

- month at horder (6) 25 Decree changes and de-

- 1 Archer has to show respect at place where Douglas is found (6)
- 2 Mutual organisation is edifying everybody? (8,7) Useless in English and another school subject
- 5 Free house local, could be in charge of such
- As a rule you might have 22 Sign of industry on article which is bound to expected to find saints here? (4,5,6)
  - Wasting asset's given liber al sort of decoration (6) Go by jumbo eating tree which could he tasteless
  - (6) Male gets sweet-smelling thing for old car (6)
  - 14 Fruit's British, a supermarket stock which goes down perfectly (5,4) 17 Get in boat which is de-
  - See Irish have a try to get fierce woman (6) 19 Stupid amount to spend
  - on Chinese dish (3,3) 20 In frenzy, merely a thing to speed up reaction (6) 22 Make strenuous effort for endless hliss (5)

# Morceli made to work for place

Noureddine Morceli, hidding for semi-final a few minutes earlia fourth successive world 1500m title, was made to work hard before winning his semi-final on the third day of the World

Championships yesterday.

Morceli, the world rec holder and Olympic champion. could not afford to relax as the Spaniards Reves Estevez and the former Olympic champion Fermin Cacho controlled the race from the front until the last few metres when Morceli took the lead.

The Algerian, who was never out of the leading pack, won in 3min 38.82sec ahead of Cacho and Estevez, who both clocked 3:38.86

Morceli's main rival for the title, Morocco's Hicham El

er, but had a comparatively less severe test, winning m 3:38.92 to set up a fascinating duel in tomorrow's final.

El Guerrouj, who has run the year, will be especially keen to win the world crown for the first time after his Olympic hopes ended in last year's final in Atlanta when he fell.

Kenya's Laban Rotich, the second fastest man in the world this year, also looked in good form and qualified comfortahly in 3:38.92.

looks to be turning in her

Sonia O'Sullivan aims to complete the first leg of a World Championship double knowing that fortune finally

bug which left her a pale shadow of the runner who had dominated the world all season. Instead of leaving Atlanta haul, she departed the United

States in tears, forced to drop out of the 5,000m final and not even getting through the first round of the 1500m. Those problems seemed to

continue into this year as she left Sheffield's Don Valley Stadium in June after finishing so far be-hind Britain's Kelly Holmes in the 1500m that she was virtually

heing written off. But, six weeks later, the 27-year-old from Cobh, whose main aim when she flew out to Athens was defending her Gothenhurg

A year ago. O'Sullivan was 5,000m crown, is now favourite struck down by a dehilitating for today's 1500m final. First, Holmes, the world No

> 1, crashed out with an Achilles problem, then defending champion Hassiha Boulmerka of Aland on Sunday the Olympic gold medallist Svetlana Masterkova also succumbed to her injury problems.

O'Sullivan had singled out Holmes and Masterkova as her two main rivals, and after doing the minimum possible so far, she now has a confident aura.

"I think I've proved my fitness now and I've not got down to my last training session yet," said O'Sullivan, who ran her fastest race of the season in the semifinal, despite lying 10th with

Her main threats are likely to be American Regina Jacobs and Russia's Olga Nelyubova. But the acceleration O Sullivan showed in moving through almost the entire field in the space gentle finish will have been noted by her rivals and if the could be crucial.

"Hopefully things will work out. I've had a day off today and we'll see how it goes from here." O'Sullivan said. "The good thing so far is that I haven't really been nervous at all and if I can stay relaxed, it will help.

"All I want to do is run my best possible race and take it from there. I've worked hard all year and now I'm here I'm go-

# Britain's 400m trio set up historic final

Britain will have three 400 metres runners in a global final for the first time in history tonight; hut the No 1 of the trio, Iwan Thomas, appears to be in-

creasingly hampered by a knee Thomas, Mark Richardson and Jamie Baulch formed a block booking after coming safely through their semi-finals, However, Thomas, who was being thought of as a potential champion here before Michael

Johnson's arrival on a wild card,

walked heavily away after finishing fourth, and spent much time frowning and stretching before leaving without comment. Britain's record holder has

been complaining for several days of a niggling injury behind his right knee. Having said that, he ran 44.61sec, which made him the fastest Briton. His race was won by Johnson, who quelied some of the doubts that his previous day's absent-minded performance had raised by running 44.37 with apparent ease.

Richardson was second behind Mark Zambada, who has been another American, Tyree Washington, in 44.62, with Baukh third m 44.69. Like Thomas, Richardson is troubled by a knee injury. but it is clearly not affecting his

level of performance. "I've got to be pleased with a season's best slowing down." Richardson said. "It's a joh well done. I wanted to get into the top two so I can get a middle lane in the final. It's super stuff to have all three of us there." He paid tribute to his trainer,

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working on his leg. "I wouldn't be running here if it wasn't for him," Richardson said. "He's an amazing guy. "I'm not letting the injury affect me. If it's going to

go, it's going to go."

Baulch, who as far as anyone knows is not suffering from either illness or injury, spoke to his coach, Linford Christie, afterwards. "I didn't really go for it in the first 200 metres," he said. "I was just telling myself You are

Today will tell. But the man whom most expect to be The Man, Johnson, provided a more reassuring show after finishing only as third of the four fastest losers in the second round. "I felt. good," Johnson said. "I don't know what shape I'm going to be in tomorrow. I didn't have any problems yesterday. I just made a mistake and I was very upset

He neither looks nor acts like the man who won two golds at the Atlanta Olympics last summer. The injury he suffered in his One-to-One challenge with Donovan Bailey at the end of May still appears to be having a knock-on effect. There is a chink of light for the Brits, then. But Johnson does not look as if he will need his best to retain his title.

Look out for David Nash. We did.

A Middleses, batsman and vicket keeps, David has progressed through the NatWest Devalopment of Excellance to represent the NatWest England Under 19 side against Pakistan and New Zealand. In achieving a high score of 98 not out, 26 catches and 2 stumpings, he's obviously a good man to have behind you. Utiless, of course, you're batting.

NatWest More than just a bank

